

# THE INDEPENDI

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Cold and grey

(IR45p) 40p

Lauren Bacall: it's never too late

THE TABLOID

**EDUCATION+** 

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COMMENT In defence of fox hunting



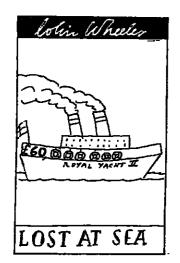
# Taxpayers buy the Queen a new yacht Saddam's son was shot to avenge dead Iraqi general

Westminster Correspondent

The Government yesterday committed folm of state money to a replacement for the Royal Yacht Britannia in what appeared to be a hid to wrong-foot Labour and win the support of those voters who support the monarchy.

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, told MPs that he rejected all suggestions of private-finance sponsors, arguing that "it is the duty of the state to support the monarchy" and said that the vessel "would be a symbol of the Crown, the Kingdom and its maritime traditions". The annual running cost, estimated to be around £4m per year, would come from the defence budget.

Labour, caught unawares by the surprise announcement initially failed to



indicate whether it would support the oject, dut later said that public finance should be limited, suggesting that it might favour some private-sector involvement. The decision to go ahead with a replacement was made on Tuesday by a Cabinet committee with the backing of the Prime Minister. Mr Portillo stressed the decision was the Government's and not that of the Queen who would contribute "to the furnishings and fittings of the State

Rooms and Royal Apartments". Labour said the decision was made for electioneering reasons. A senior source said last night: "It is amazing that this £60m has had to come out of contingencies. If this had been a serious debate about the need for a replacement, they would have consulted with the Opposition. Instead, they've tried to catch us out on public spending." However, the shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown's golden rule would stand: "no commitment for any new

spending, royal or not royal".

As well as bidding for the royalist

Shipbuilders on the Clyde.

KONTO WITH VIAGA

vote. Mr Portillo also made a play for support from jingoistic Euro-sceptics by promising that the ship would be built in a British yard, knowing that this was a commitment which breaches European competition rules as they specity that all major contracts must be open to bidders throughout the European Union. Mr Portillo justified this by vaguely saying it was a matter of security and "it was a royal ship" and promised that if the European Commission launched a legal challenge, he would oppose it.

While the announcement met with jubilant support on the government benches, Labour was divided, with several MPs, including Kate Hoey and Andrew Faulds, expressing full support while Dennis Skinner and Alan Williams opposed it. Mr Williams said he could not understand the sense of priorities which diverts £60m away from social) services and said it was "a sym-

bol of extravagance and irrelevance". The Liberal Democrats gave unqualified backing to the scheme while the leader of the SNP, Alex Salmond, described it as foolish.

Mr Portillo admitted that the ship would be more of a mobile hotel than a form of transport, since the Royal Family "travel by air". It would have to be "prestigious" to impress foreign visitors. He justified the cost "not in terms of pounds, shillings and pence, but on how we feel about ourselves".

Unlike Britannia, which had a notional role as a military hospital ship, the new ship would have no ostensible military purpose. The Government rejected the plan to make it double as a training ship. There had been op-position in the Ministry of Defence to continue paying for a ship which had no military purpose but this has been es of political expediency.

There would be room for a helicopter pad. but Mr Portillo rejected suggestions that there should be space for bicycles in line with the "cycling Royals" approach favoured by Continental monarchs.

The new yacht would enter service in 2002. Britannia itself is due to be scrapped after it finishes its final tour of duty in Hong Kong later this year. While Mr Portillo said he would consider suitable offers for "a suitably prestigious use for Britannia in the public interest here in the UK," he would prefer to see it scrapped rather than allow it to deteriorate.

Nick Grainger, director of the Ship-building and Shiprepairers Association said there would be nine possible British yards where the ship could be built. The leading contenders are thought to be Harland and Wolff in Belfast, VSEL in Barrow and Yarrow



Bon voyage: The royal yacht Britannia leaving Portsmouth for the last time

## The Tories who fear their own one-party state

John Major was asked at a London breakfast meeting with business leaders yesterday how he reacted to the widespread view that it was time for a change of government, for the good of democracy.

The Prime Minister gave a polished politician's reply, brushing the question aside But privately, other Tory MPs are worried about just that. Away from the microphones. they are warning that the reelection of the Conservatives for a fifth term could damage democracy - and even lead to civil unrest by disaffected

leadership would be aggravated and Tony Blair and Gordon Brown would be "ripped to shreds" in an orgy of Labour self-recrimination.

Speaking to The Independent on conditions of strict anonymiwork hard at renewing our an institution. election mandate, but will it be "There has be



by Anthony Bevins Political Editor

win, as on the arguments they ought, then I believe they have not yet even begun to see the depths of unpopularity to which the party would sink there-after. With the real prospect of civil unrest to follow.

'We had in Thatcher's day Other Tory MPs warn that if the poll tax riots. You would be Labour is defeated again, the arencouraging, particularly rogance of the Conservative amongst the young, increased enthusiasm for extra-parliamentary activity.

"I think that each time the Tories have won, particularly in 1992, their victory - and this is not their fault - their victory led to the lack of respect for memty, one senior government back-bencher said: "We have got to bers of the system, the lack of interest in using Parliament as

good for British democracy? I extra-parliamentary activity of judgements of a very narrow doubt it. If the Conservatives one form or another, passive, presidential cabinet system,"

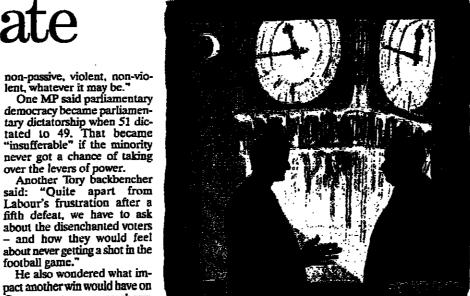
non-passive, violent, non-violent, whatever it may be."
One MP said parliamentary democracy became parliamentary dictatorship when 51 dic-tated to 49. That became "insufferable" if the minority never got a chance of taking

over the levers of power.

Another Tory backbencher said: "Quite apart from Labour's frustration after a fifth defeat, we have to ask about the disenchanted voters - and how they would feel

football game." He also wondered what impact another win would have on Government arrogance; shown by blanket attacks on the minimum wage, the unpunished incompetence of the way in which the BSE beef crisis had been handled, and the current attempt to introduce draconian

through the Police Bill. "If we cannot expect a Conservative government to defend our freedoms, what is the point? We are now supposed to "There has been a growth of be obedient to the views and



he said. One MP said it was one of the basic assumptions of the unwritten British constitution that, "from time to time the government will change". But he also warned that if

bugging and burglary powers Labour lost, its situation would be dire because the party had bitten its tongue, shut its mouth, and watched "appalled" as Mr Blair had carried out the modernisation of New

Labour. The MPs' anxieties reflect a

growing sense of Westminster disquiet about the consequences of a fifth Tory term of office. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, has already

warned of the risks of a one-par-

ty state, and of the Tories' be-

Andrew Marr, page 17

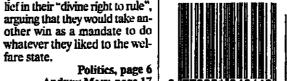
#### QUICKLY Striking it rich

Bahamas-based Joe Lewis has bought a £40m, 25 per cent stake in Glasgow Rangers foot-ball club - Britain's biggest single investment in football. Chairman David Murray will contain a controlling interest in the club.

Free to speed Motorists in many parts of the country are speeding illegally because the police cannot afford

to prosecute drivers caught by roadside cameras. Page 5 CONTENTS The Broadsheet Business & City .....18-20 

Feature ......



by Patrick Cockburn

The attempted assassination of Uday, the son of President Saddam Hussein, was carried out as part of a feud by the family of a senior Iraqi general killed by the Iraqi leader for criticising the regime.

The Independent has learned from an Iraqi source that the leader of the plot was Ra'ad al-Hazaa, a former army officer in his thirties, who is the nephew of General Omar al-Hazaa. The general, a member of the same clan as Saddam Hussein. was executed in 1990. The assassination bid took

place in Baghdad on 12 De-cember last year when Uday, 32, the notoriously brutal son of the Iraqi leader, was driving through the city. Opposition groups say he was hit by four bullets, one of which is still lodged in his spine. Last week the French government officially turned down an Iraqi request that Uday be permitted to enter a hospital in France. The request implies that Uday's vounds are serious.

The attack was previously claimed by al-Dawa, a militant Shia group, with a history of trying to assassinate Iraqi leaders. They are believed to have been involved in the logistics and organisation of the plot, but the driving force was Ra'ad al-Hazaa and some of his relations, who were able to acquire details of Uday's movements because they moved in the same élite circles.

tack on Uday had its origin in sure on the Iranian governthe killing of General Hazaa seven years ago. Like Saddam Hussein he came from the northern city of Tikrit and was a divisional commander in the regular army. During the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s General Hazaa retired, but was increasingly critical of the Iraqi

leader. Arrested in 1990 be was executed, reputedly after his tongue was cut out. His house

in Baghdad was demolished. Uday is not known to have played any part in the death of the general. But he is the most visible member of the regime in Baghdad, famed for his womanising and drunkenness. The would-be assassins are said to have received information from "Lubna", a girlfriend of Uday.



Uday Hussein: Seriously injured in feud gun-attack

those who had taken part fled to Iran. The Iranian government had no prior knowledge of the plot and continues to deny that the men are in Iran in the face of an official Iraqi demand, through the UN, that they be handed over. Worried that they might be secretly returned, some of the group made contact

ment not to give them up to Iraq.

In order to distance Iran from the assassination, al-Dawa, based in Tehran, claimed the attack from Damascus, If Uday is paralysed, his brother Ousai, head of the security services, becomes the heir apparent. Mutilation led to attack, page 9

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## significant shorts

#### Murderer left 'autograph' on body of Naomi Smith

Naomi Smith, the schoolgirl found murdered in a children's park, had a crucial "DNA autograph" on her mutilated body, a jury heard yesterday. Tests showed that saliva found in a bite on 15-year-old Naomi's body fitted the DNA profile of Edwin Hopkins, 20. Birmingham Crown Court was told. Mr Hopkins had an "incredibly rare" DNA profile found only in one in every 250 million people, said Colman Treacy QC, for the prosecution.

His teeth were also a perfect match for the bitemark - and his sister, Julie, gave police vital evidence about his whereabouts on the night of Naomi's death, said Mr Treacy as he outlined the prosecution case to the jury of six men and six women. Hopkins, of Ansley Common, near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, denies murder.

Naomi vanished after popping out to post a letter in her home village of Ansley Common in September 1995, her throat had been cut and she had been sexually assaulted.

"It was probably better than if the killer had left his autograph."
Because what was found in the area around the breast provides some of the most valuable evidence for the prosecution in this case." The trial continues.

#### The demon eyes have it

The Conservative Party's poster campaign featuring the "demon eyes" has beaten Wonderbra to win the latest "most talked about advert" accolade, a survey revealed yesterday.

The pre-election campaign, devised by the M&C Saatchi agency, gained more national press coverage than any other promotion in the last three years. The advertisements, which included pictures of the Labour leader Tony Blair with superimposed red eyes, have topped the poll. Wonderbra was second and Labour's "Same Old Tory Lies" campaign came sixth.

Martin Loat, managing director of Propeller Marketing Communications, which conducted the survey, said: "Like it or loathe it, the Demon Eyes icon was a stunning advertising image that captured the public imagination."

#### Derek Bentley's sister dies



Iris Bentley, who campaigned tirelessly to clear the name of her brother Derek hanged for the murder of a policeman in 1953, has died.

Aged in her 60s, she had suffered from cancer for some time and recently had an operation for the illness, her solicitors said.

From her home in Wimbledon, south-west London, she spearheaded the 44-year effort to secure a full pardon for her brother who was the

accomplice, not the gunman, in the shooting. The case was dramatised in the film, Let Him Have It, named after the alleged cry made by Bentley, then aged 19, moments before the murder. The case will be one of the first to be presented to the Criminal Cases Review Commission for referral to the Court of Appeal when it commences its work in April.

#### Foster's tower vision fades

Sir Norman Foster's vision of a 1,265ft Millennium Tower on the site of the bomb-damaged Baltic Exchange in the City of London all but evaporated yesterday when English Heritage joined opponents of the glass skyscraper. The tower, which would be Europe's tallest building, was such a "quantum leap" in scale, height and bulk, that it would overwhelm the character of the capital said Sir locebro Stevens, chairman of English Heritage

capital, said Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage.
"It would disfigure the skyline. London doesn't need a macho building to establish a place for itself as a world financial centre." The £400m project could only now proceed if the Secretary of State for Environment, John Gummer, overruled his own adviser, Stephen Goodwin

#### **Grobbelaar friendship turned to hate**

A former friend and business partner of the goalkeeper Bruce business deal turned sour, a court heard yesterday.

Chris Vincent agreed with Mr Grobbelaar's counsel, Mr Rodney Klevan QC, that he wanted to ensure the "downfall" of his onetime friend whom he felt had let him down over the collapse of his safari company Mondoro.

Mr Klevan asked: "In a flash your friendship turned to hatred?" Mr Vincent said: "Yes sir." The barrister continued: "It is woe betide anybody who crosses Chris Vincent - would that be a good epitaph for you?" "Reasonably," said Mr Vincent.

Mr Vincent was being cross-examined at the trial at Winchester Crown Court in which the former Liverpool player Mr Grobbelaar and two former professional footballers. John Fashanu and Hans Segers, are accused of a conspiracy to fix football matches.

He denied a suggestion he had twisted Grobbelaar's account of forecasting matches for a Far East syndicate to make it seem like match-fixing, and rejected claims he had lied in his "James Bond" description of the goalkeeper taking money in a toilet from a fourth defendant on the same charge, a Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim. The trial continues.

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Sir Peter de la Billiere: clearly angered by MoD position on his book Photograph: David Giles

## Warrior ready for a battle royal with the generals

ne of Britain's most decorated warriors, General Sir Peter de la Billiere, was set for a battle royal with the Ministry of Defence last night after an order was issued banning authors of books on the special forces from their former bases.

More than two dozen authors, including the general and Andy McNab, the man behind the Gulf War best-seller Bravo Two-Zero, were told they were no longer welcome at social functions, in case they used them as a means of gathering information for new books.

The general, commander of British forces in the Gulf and the most decorated soldier since the Second World War, reacted curtly to the news, with a atement saying he had not received notification of the barr - and he didn't expect it.

"I am aware that the Ministry of Defence will be sending letters to some former members of the UK Special Forces regarding the withdrawal of authority to give them access to UK Special Forces' estab-

"I do not know who they are. Both of my books Storm Command and Looking For Trouble - were

cleared by the MoD and the SAS before publication. I have not received and do not expect to receive such a letter."

The MoD confirmed last night that it had "cleared" his books, but a spokesman said clearance was not the same as approval. "We do vet them for security reasons, but we also tell the au-thors that we would prefer that they did not write about the special forces at all."

"In the past three years, there have been some 35 books about the special services, including 10 best-sellers. There has not been anything like it since the Second World War. We have to ensure the safety of the man still serving, and we have to ensure secrecy. The people who have written about their experiences may well use social functions to gather more information for hungy publish-

ers; we don't want to give them that opportunity." Sir Peter was director of the SAS from 1978 to 1983. He resigned last year as president of the SAS Regimental Association and is not known for

regular attendance at functions Steve Boggan and Christopher Bellamy

## Tommy goes

young chef
A 26-year-old chef has become the
youngest in Britain to win two Michelin stars, beating Marco Pierre White, who won the same accolade aged 27 - and winning his boss £1,000 in the process.

Marco's Michelin

crown falls to

Tom Aikens is the new chef at London's Pied à Terre, one of nine restaurants awarded two stars by The Michelin 1997 Red Hotel and Restaurant Guide, published yes-

The restaurant's manager, David Moore, was so confident that it would retain its two stars that he made a £1,000 bet with his boss. "He just faxed me from India saying he can't wait to pay up," said Mr Moore yesterday.

Although the restaurant already held two stars, there had been fears that when previous chef Richard Neat left last year, the stars might go with him.

Restaurants to receive the coveted three stars were all in London: La Tante Claire in Chelsea, Marco Pierre White's The Restaurant at the Hyde Park Hotel, and Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane.



Tom Aikens: Star quality

in what was described by the guide, which contains information on more than 6,000 establishments, as a "strong" performance by British and Irish restaurants, 67 received one star.

Mr Aikens is likely to be busy. The last time the restaurant was awarded two stars, business almost doubled within three months. Jojo Moyes | End.

## back on the shelf

The supermarket shelf-stacker who was plucked from obscurity to lead the cast of the West End musical Tommy, will not be returning to Tesco's despite the decision of the

show's promoters to end its run. Audiences have failed to share the delight of the cast, composer Pete Townshend and critics who lavished rave reviews on Townshend's transformation of his 27year-old rock opera into a family

The show opened last March at the Shaftesbury Theatre, renewing interest in the music of The Who. It also brought stardom for unknown 20-year-old Paul Keating, who auditioned for the show between shifts at Tesco. A spokesman for the show said last night: "Paul is shocked and disappointed like all the cast. But he will not be returning to Tesco. After his performance in Tommy he can look forward to a great future as an actor."

After a successful Broadway run it looked set for a lengthy run. Ironically, it has received eight Olivier award nominations, the highest number for any show in the West

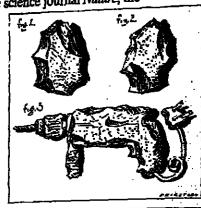
## briefing

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

### Low-tech origins of human society discovered

Humans began using stone tools almost 2.6 million years ago, according to examination of archaeological finds, which may be the oldest known artefacts, in a river valley in Ethiopia. The tools were used for chopping and pounding, and are almost 300,000 years older than the previously "oldest known" tools. The new finds mainly consist of flakes of rock with chipped edges, which would have been used for cutting or chopping, and a few "pounded pieces" which would have been shaped by battering, like anvils. In today's edition of the science journal Nature, the

archaeologists, led by Sileshi Semaw from Rutgers University in New Jersey, write: "We predict that even older artefacts will be found." But the researchers were able to say little about the hominids who would have made the tools. The earliest human fossil traces, discovered by Lake Turkana in Kenya in 1995, date back more than 4.4 million years. Charles Arthur



#### **EDUCATION**

#### Youngsters lacking direction

Fewer than haif of British children can locate London on a ma with no place names, according to research carried out by NOP for

with no place names, according to research carried out by NOP for Microsoft. The survey of nearly 900 children aged eight to 16 also found that only just over a quarter could pinpoint Edinburgh, and 37 per cent could not find Scotland.

Government curriculum advisers said they found the extent of the children's ignorance "disturbing". Geography has been a compulsory part of the national curriculum for children aged eight to 14 since 1991 - voluntary from 14 to 16 - and identifying principal cities, regions and rivers on a man of the United principal cities, regions and rivers on a map of the United Kingdom is something all 11-year-olds should have covered.

The survey suggests that they are even more at sea outside their own country. Only two in five could identify Germany on a map of Europe with no place names. Three out of five did not know the language spoken in Tokyo and nearly seven out of 10 were stumped when asked Mexico's main language.

#### SCIENCE

#### The limits of intelligence

The human brain has virtually reached its evolutionary limits, say scientists. An analysis of the delicate balance between the billions of neurons in our skulls, and the need to supply the axons (which connect them like cables) with blood and fatty insulation shows we can only improve our data processing ability by 20 per cent at most. The BT research, published in New Scientist, found that to expand our thinking ability, the 100 billion neurons in the brain

would have to be larger, so they could pass signals more quickly. But that would in turn demand a greater blood supply - which, given the constricted size of the brain cavity, could only be achieved by limiting the growth of the neurons.

A larger skull might allow both more neurons and a bigger blood supply, but transmission of data would be slower. Charles Arthur

#### Zero tolerance pays dividend

An American style "zero tolerance" anti crime initiative in Scotland was yesterday hailed a success by police chiefs who said it had belped cut offences in the force region to their lowest level in

15 years.
For the past three months Strathelyde Police has been clamping. down on minor crimes in the belief that this will reduce the number of more serious offences and reduce public fear. During the first stage of the "Spotlight" initiative more than 200,000 extra police hours were spent on the streets.

During the Strathelyde offensive, 12 offences were spotlighted.

Since the start of the start of the scheme crimes of violence,

indecency, dishonesty, car theft, and vandalism were down but crime covering drugs, obstructing police in their duties and overall nuisance rose. Jason Bennetto

#### **AGRICULTURE**

#### Gastronomic great leap forward

Scientists have taken a giant leap for gastronomy by growing the highly prized golden chantrelle wild mushroom in a greenhouse. Until now, the fungus has defied all attempts at cultivation and can only be harvested from pine forests.

Large quantities are imported from the United States because it is declining in Europe. The team, led by Eric Danell from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala reported in the science journal Nature that they had transferred pine seedlings carrying the fungus into pots in March, 1995. Five fruit-bodies emerged during the following spring and autumn.

The scientists believe their technique could be applied to other and angered species, such as Trickelower materials, at the scientists.

other endangered species, such as Tricholoma matsutake, which is the most valuable mushroom in the world, costing about £60



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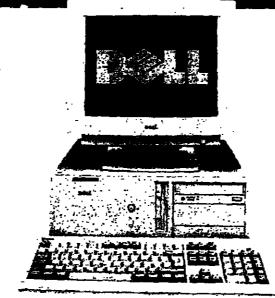
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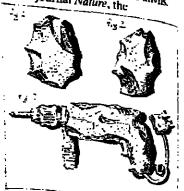
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### origins of human scovered

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Name games: Robo-Tony, set for a pre-election race against robots John and Paddy to launch the Year of Engineering Success in London yesterday Photograph: Andrew Buurman

British celebrities in New York

New York, including former Sunday Times editor Harold Evans and broadcast mogul Howard Stringer, to raise elec-

Under the banner of "Britain after the Elections", a letter has been sent to scores of prominent Britons around the US promising different events designed to bolster support for Labour in America including one on Wall Street in February and another thereafter in Los Angeles. The letter, signed by Mr

without saying that if you wish to help Labour financially - and if you are a British citizen - any contribution will be welcome, however small," the letter says. Evans and several other well-The group has asked Alan known British expatriates, also

Harold Evans: Fundraising

launch campaign for Tony Blair an evening of British enter-tainment in Los Angeles with

seats offered at a high price. Negotiations are underway, meanwhile, to bring Gordon Brown, the Shadow chancellor, to chair the Wall Street event. Glenda Jackson may also

Mr Evans, who is president of group. Last autumn, Mr Evans the Labour Party since it was last played host to small breakfast of select Britons in New York at which the deputy Labour leader, John Prescott, was the

special guest. Mr Evans, who noted that he had become a "committed Labourite" for the first time in his life, said that the Conservsolicity for funds: "It goes Parker, the director of the new- affive Party was itself engaged in and Peter Foges.

some two million Britons living in America. He said he had received a Tory solicitation letter.

The activities planned by the group would also aim at explaining Labour policies to Americans, particular those on Wall Street. "It would be a way of talking to American people "It's an attempt to level the about what a Labour govern-playing field for Labour," said ment would mean so that they would understand that there the Random House publishing have been some big changes in in power," Mr Evans said.

Others who have put their names to the effort include Mr Stringer, who is British and was formerly head of the CBS TV network, the well-known British restaurateur in New York Brian McNally, and film producers David Tereshchuck

## The sun fails to rise on Japanese work revolution

Increasing number of discrimination claims as western workers fall foul of employers

The case of the man accused by his Japanese manager of having a face "like a rock or a football is the latest in a series of unhappy episodes in Anglo-Japan-

ese working relations. Clifford Wakeman, with two of his former colleagues, is now awaiting financial compensation for racial discrimination from the London office of Quick Corporation, a financial infor-

mation firm.

The case is unlikely to be the last in what appears to be a growing trend of discrimination claims against Japanese companies, the question arises whether the problem is simple cultural misunderstanding. Or, more disturbingly, might Japan-ese business culture be racist?

When Nissan began the Japanese move into Britain in the 1980s, everyone noted the equality - how managers and workers shared the same canteen, even

wore the same uniform. Although there have been criticisms, unions have frequently praised their new employers for good working conditions. The success in manulacturing was further confirmed yesterday when Toyota announced it expected production to increase significantly. Yet the City, by contrast, has seemed plagued by wrangles. The first notable case was He-

Setsuo Kato, a Japanese journalist who has lived in Britain gard the British as lacking the

Photograph: Chris Steele-Perkins derstanding is at the root of the

Japanese and British workers at Panasonic in Cardiff

damages last year for sex discrimination by Fuji International, one of the world's biggest banks. Its deputy managing director, the tribunal noted, seemed to expect women to stand aside to let nim pass.

So with the Commission of Racial Equality now taking on further cases and a spate of disputes in America, the way Japanese business works has taken on some urgency.

ital age, consumers will no

longer be able to select the

channel or programme they

want at the touch of a button.

problem, with language principally to blame. When Japanese people encounter workplace difficulties, often their English is not sophisticated enough to tackle them. Japanese people should learn the language bet-ter, but British people working for Japanese have to sympathise because these are people work-

But there were cultural differences too. The Japanese relen Bamber who won £100,000 for 20 years, believes misun-corporate loyalty they prize.

ing abroad," he said.

The British suspect they are not employed by the Japanese on equal terms. Japan is a society based on hierarchy and formality and western traditions of

dehate are alien to it.

Many in business believe there is more to it than that. Stephanie Oyama, who runs the Japan Centre at Birmingham University and her own business consultancy, thinks Japanese firms must try harder. "You can't assume that you can come to another culture and that people

same way. We don't," she said. "Many of them are here because they want a place in the European market. The best way to learn is through the British workforce and I don't

think they are doing that." Bonnie Williams, who runs Waterbridge International, a management consultancy, said many Japanese firms had refused to accept they might need help, but the case of Ms Bamber changed their minds.

\*Our work has jumped dramatically over the last eight to 10 months because of the issue." she said. "There's a growing awareness that they do need active management training." But she added: "On the whole, Japanese companies have done this country a world of good.

A Department of Trade and Industry spokesman agreed. An estimated \$34bn has come into Britain in the last 40 years from 1,000 Japanese companies employing 60,000 people.

Quick Corporation is conidering its position. From the beginning, it accepted the dismissals of Mr Wakeman, Ashok Solanki and Stuart Mitchell were statutorily unfair. It was racial discrimination it denied. A spokesman said yesterday: "Quick has examined all its employment policies and procedures and continues to look at its responsibilities and obligations towards all its employees,

## Watching TV becomes an issue of mice and menus

Media Editor

Watching the telly has traditionally been the most passive of leisure pursuits. But in the not too distant future, couch potatoes may need a PhD in computer science to be sure of catching the next episode of EastEnders.

That is the gnawing fear among senior BBC executives as they nervously brace themselves for the dawn of the digital age, when switching on a ter of mice and menus rather

than simply pressing a button. Auntie Beeb's basic anxiety is that, left to his own devices, Rupert Murdoch could bury her varied offerings - the two conventional terrestrial networks BBC1 and BBC2 plus a host of new digital services - beneath his own, ever burgeoning broadcast fare.

In the BBC's opinion, viewers should be confronted with established channels like BBC1 after only a few clicks and not have to scroll through a torrent of sales pitches for BSkyB's pay TV channels.

BSkyB could be tempted to impose this structure because it will control the set-top baxes which will allow satellite subscribers to tune in to 200 channels.

The design and control of these gadgets, particularly the on-screen electronic programme guide (EPG), will determine how viewers are able to find out what's on the box.

The BBC appealed to the communication watchdog, Oftel, yesterday to draw up guidelines which will regulate this digital gateway and ensure that BSkyB does not abuse its dominance of the digital satellite

Patricia Hodgson, the Cor-

#### and planning, said: "In the dig-[BBC, ITV. Channel 4 and the fident that Oftel won't fail the

They will depend on the EPG. households. This needs to preserve the choices the viewer has today and not thank modern technology if extend them. it makes it more difficult for

Viewers will want to continue to get easy access to the for granted today.' main free-to-air networks

majority of television watched in existing cable and satellite She added: "The viewer will

them to see what they can take Ms Hodgson says she is con-

forthcoming Channel 5], which

will continue to make up the

BBC or Britain's viewers, praising it as "a tough and proven regulator in the related telecommunications field". Nonetheless, Britain's ter-

restrial broadcasters do doubtless remain at the mercy of Murdoch for the simple reason he got off his mark before them and everyone else to develop

What the BBC wants



What it fears



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## Paedophile ring organised abuse at 'evil' home

Roger Dobson

It was meant to be a place of safety for vulnerable young children. The reality was that at one of the homes. Bryn Estyn was a home where they suffered unimaginable nightmares and lived in fear of

jailed for abuse. The horror was compounded, an inquiry heard yesterday, by the concerted activities of paedophiles carrying out organised and systematic abuse of the children. Gerard Elias, QC, told the Waterhouse tribunal investigating child abuse in North Wales that this was an important issue facing the tribunal.

He said: "If there was such an infiltration, this raises the question of the existence of a paedophile ring. If such a ring did exist, was it organised, or simply a loose and informal arrangement between abusers to share information and op-

There can be little doubt that most or all the most serious sexual abusers knew each other. The homes presented at-

tractive targets for them. Children in care form a particularly vulnerable class and it was not difficult to obtain employment The now-closed, mock Tudor

children's home in Wrexham was an evil place where the only sexual and physical abuse.
Younger children were bullied by older boys and three men who worked there have been sexual and physical abuse.

Se statement made to the tri-bunal's investigating team by a former resident: "After going to the dormitories a male member of staff would come to the door and call out one of the boys who would get up and leave. They were normally gone for half an hour to an hour. When they returned they went back to bed and I often heard them sobbing. I never asked what happened because I was afraid to ask."

The tribunal, whose hearings are expected to take a year, also heard yesterday of the role of Clwyd Council's insurers in the non-publication of reports. In one letter to the council they said: "Every inquiry is a further dress rehearsal for claimants and a further incentive to the

claimants, particularly as two of the ringleaders have given up." Mr Elias said: "With this approach, what might perhaps be called the hold-the-lid-on-at-all-costs approach, the Clwyd au-

thority appears to have connived." The tribunal, chaired by Sir Ronald Waterhouse, was set up

by the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, to investigate the allegations of abuse and the care system in Almost 140 people who passed through Bryn Estyn have complained of abuse. Four

more who alleged abuse are dead. "It is beyond dispute that others have been gravely damaged not only by their experiences at the home, but also by their inability to speak of those experiences to those in authority and thus commence the healing process," said Mr Elias. More than sixty people have

made allegations of physical or sexual abuse against one man. One three occasions police sent files to the Crown Prosecution Service, but he was never prosecuted. Clywd Council carried



out inquiries but almost all of these were never published.

Deal him in: Actor Omar Sharif, one of the best-known bridge players, preparing for the Macallan International Bridge these were never published.

Pairs championship in London this week. Also taking part is the top player, Bob Hamman

Photograph: John Voos Photograph: John Voos

## RUC to oppose curb on bullets

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The Royal Ulser Constabulary yesterday made it clear if would oppose any mores for a major clampdown on the force's use of plastic bullets following a recommendation in the annual report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Consubulary for a review of the guidelines on us-

ing the weapon.

The RUC relies heavily on plastic bullets during riots and street disturbance its officers firing almost 7,000 of the projectiles during the widespread summer disorder in Northern Ireland. In the course of the troubles 16 people have been killed by plastic and rubber bullets fired by police and

In his report the inspector said: "There is a risk that in those areas where blion guns are routinely issued they will be treated as a piece of everyday equipment. The issue and potential subsequent use of these weapons should be regarded as a major step, carrying with it the potential to escalate as well as defuse public disorder.

Guidelines in Britain are based on using the weapon when there is a risk to life, whereas in Northern Ireland they may be used to protect life and property and to preserve

## **Boy soccer** players being put at risk

Glenda Cooper

Football-mad boys are being put in "potentially dangerous situations" where they could be abused by the people who train them, according to a Channel 4 programme to be screened

An investigation by Dis-patches says the hold coaches have over their school-age proteges - the chance of a career in professional football - can give them the opportunity to abuse boys for years with little fear of discovery.

One former coach, Barry Bennell, who worked at Man-chester City, Stoke City and Crewe Alexandra is currently serving four years in a US prison after admitting buggery and assault on a boy.

Another amateur club, Ipswich Saracens, found that their coach Keith Ketley was already a convicted sex offender. Despite this he had been able to set up another team with Football Association affiliation. He is now serving five years in jail after being found guilty on four counts of indecent assault.

In Bennell's case, four other boys, now in their 20s came for-ward to police after his arrest both children and staff. The FA and he may face charges when he is deported from America.

One of them was Jan Ackley, who played for a Derbyshire side that Mr Bennell coached. "Looking back on the things that have happened [I have] lots of regrets really." he said. "It reminds me very much of the control he had basically over people. And how he very much had people in his grip.

were staying late in Bennell's

It was not until 1994 when Mr Bennell took youth teams from Staffordshire on tour to Flori- taken in British sport."

da that a 13-year-old boy spoke out about the abuse he suffered and Mr Bennell was arrested. He could only be charged with

offences committed in the Uni-Ketley had run a team in Southend-on-Sea, but after pleading guilty to indecently as-saulting boys he was sentenced to 18 months. He moved to Ipswich, changed his name and started up another club.

Around 43,000 clubs are currently affiliated to the FA. The chairman of Suffolk FA told the programme: "No checks would necessarily be made on their background unless we were particularly suspicious that there was a problem." Because of such fears, Charl-

ton Athletic has now established its own code of practice for coaches to avoid any fears of sexual abuse. The guide-lines include always working in pairs, not offering to drive children on their own and not putting themselves in ques-tionable situations.

Les Reed, Charlton's first team coach, says that with such a large number of children involved with adults there is a "potentially dangerous situation" needs to come out of the towers at Lancaster Gate and really investigate what is going on." he said.

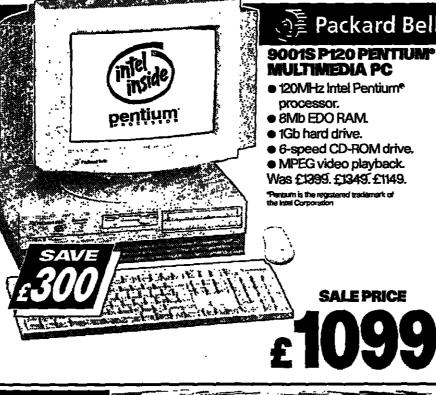
A spokesman for the FA said that they were "strongly" in favour of child protection leg-islation being introduced and had written to the Home Secretary to emphasise this. "The FA has been a prime

mover among sporting govern-Manchester City did receive ing bodies to get an effective a letter of complaint from one screening process which aids family when Bennell took child protection," he said "[It] the squad to a holiday camp. is committed to what could be about the fact that their sons a £1m plus programme of were staying late in Bennell's screening all those involved in youth football ... It is the most comprehensive commitment to child protection ever under-

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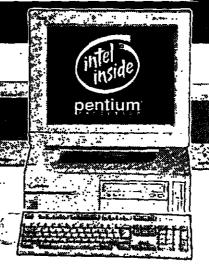
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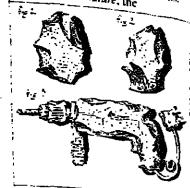
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## حبكذا من الاعل

UARY 1997 - THE INDEPENDEN

### origins of human **Covered**

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that they are even more at sea outside their in five could identify Germany on a map of ames. Three out of five did not know the tyo and nearly seven out of 10 were stumps ain language.

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#### THE INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 1997

# Caught on film: the camera that always lies

#### Police admit that motorists are allowed to speed illegally with dummy roadside apparatus

#### Jason Bennetto and David Garfinkel

Motorists in many parts of the country are being allowed to break the speed limit because the police cannot afford to prosecute drivers caught by roadside cameras, it was disclosed yesterday.
In some cases film has been

deliberately removed from cameras and the speed limit set at an artificially high level so that fewer motorists will be caught. In other instances no action has been taken against drivers filmed breaking the speed limit, Residents of Gantshill, in north-west London, say that one camera on the busy A127 to Essex has not worked for three months.

Chief constables yesterday appealed for extra money to carry out prosecutions, arguing that the speed cameras were an extremely effective method of reducing road-traffic accidents. They believe convicted motorists should contribute to prosecution costs.

About 30 out of the 43 police forces in England and Wales use speed cameras, fitted at accident trouble spots. They are triggered if a passing vehicle exceeds a set speed. Most drivers are liable to a fixed £40 fine and three licence penalty points, although more serious cases are taken to court. However, only one in eight

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motorists filmed speeding are prosecuted, according to a report sublished last Wednesday by Lex Service, of the sales and leasing group. For example, in Avon and Somerset the police can only afford to process and prosecute a certain number of motorists so they set their cameras to a higher limit than normal - ensuring that only the very worse law breakers are caught. A spokesman for Avon and Somerset said: "There's no point in

not afford to prosecute. Geoffrey Markham. spokesman on speed enforcement for the Association of Chief Police Officers (Aepo) and Assistant Chief Constable of Essex, explained: "We have to back away from it, and not put film in the camera perhaps, or limit the numbers we process, or put the profile for speeding at too high a level.

photographing motorists we can-

"We have to do all sorts of artificial things to remain within our own budgets. But ... if a particularly newerful weapon that we have at our disposal is blunted because we are unable to use it in certain ports of the country, that is not a good road-safety message," he told BBC Radio 4's Tor programme.

Chief Inspector Jerry Moore, of Essex Police's traffic commission, and an assistant to the Acpo committee examining this

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Empty promise: The police speed camera on the London-Essex A127 that residents of Gantshill say has not done its job for three months

issue, said: "In Essex if we could not afford to deal with any more cases we would close down the cameras until the backlog had been dealt with." He warned: "We don't want

ber of road-traffic accidents." The police want to be paid a percentage of the fixed penalty payments made by speeding motorists, which at present goes motorists to know where they can

speed and where they can't. Our nain aim is to reduce the num-were first introduced in 1992 Sussex Police said: "It is imthey produced just 300 prosecutions but by 1994 this rose to

The Metropolitan Police said have to target your resources as they supported the call for ex- we do not have a bottomless pit

possible to do everything so we target known black spots. Where there are problems you

of money." But other forces questioned, including Humberside, Thames Valley, and Hertfordshire, said they prosecuted all motorists caught over

cameras should work and that people should be prosecuted. police see that as one of their priorities, and so do implement John Bowis, Transport min-

## Anti-traffic Bill gets amber light

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The Government has decided to end hostilities towards a proposed new law which would compel local councils to plan cuts in road traffic. Anti-road protesters showed

their support for the Traffic Reduction Bill in London yesterday by briefly blocking the busy road beside the Houses of Par-

iament with a sit-down protest. The Road Traffic Reduction Bill reaches a crucial stage tomorrow, with its second reading in the House of Commons. Its backers, including more than 100 local councils and 220 MPs, believe the Government's change of heart has given their

Bill with a real chance of entering into force. The legislation would oblige

councils to set targets for cutting traffic levels, or cutting the projected growth in the number of car and lorry journeys. The targets, and the plans to implement them, would have to be drawn up within a year of the Bill be-coming law, and they would cov-

er the years 2005 and 2010. The Private Member's Bill, introduced by Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster, has its vital second reading in the Commons tomorrow. Backers say that if it survives it has a reasonable chance of getting through the Commons stages and the Lords before the general election is called and Parliament dissolved.

The Government has indicated that it will not oppose the Bill, following negotiations with Mr Foster in which he made substantial concessions. In its original version it would have

compelled the Secretary of State

for Transport to set national targets, something his department could not countenance.

The Bill has backing from the Green Party, Plaid Cymru and Friends of the Earth. Ron Bailev. the veteran Green Party campaigner who wrote it, said: "It's not what we originally in-

tended, but its a vital step which

puts traffic reduction on the leg-islative agenda for the first time." Councils would be expected to hit their targets by improving facilities for pedestrians

and cyclists, boosting public transport and refusing planning permission for developments which make people more reliant on cars - out-of-town shopping centres and leisure complexes, for example.

The Department of Transport said its stance would be revealed tomorrow, but the Bill was "moving towards current government policy". Supporters of the legislation

held a rally in Central Hall, followed by a mass lobby of MPs in Parliament. The main justifications for the Bill are that it would cut the growing volume of noise and pollution from traffic, make towns and cities more attractive and curb the demand for new roads. About 2,000

people attended, many with placards, and some sat in the road. They were quickly moved by police, who said there were no arrests and the demonstration was good natured. Dozens of cyclists showed their support by circling Parliament Square. If the Bill is passed it will be the second major item of "green" legislation brought

ister, said it was important that

about through the Private Member's Bill procedure. In 1995 the Home Energy Conservation Act become law - also with the backing of the Liberal Democrats, Friends of the Earth, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party. This compels all councils to outline a strategy to cut energy use in homes in their area by 30 per cent over 10 years.

### Cars to come with their own cat's eyes

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Cars will soon come with infrared night vision systems able to pick out people and objects that drivers otherwise might not see, following research by

The new systems would use cameras sensitive to infrared radiation emitted from the front of the car. The enhanced image of the road and obstacles ahead. consisting of heat reflected from otherwise invisible objects. would then be projected in vis-

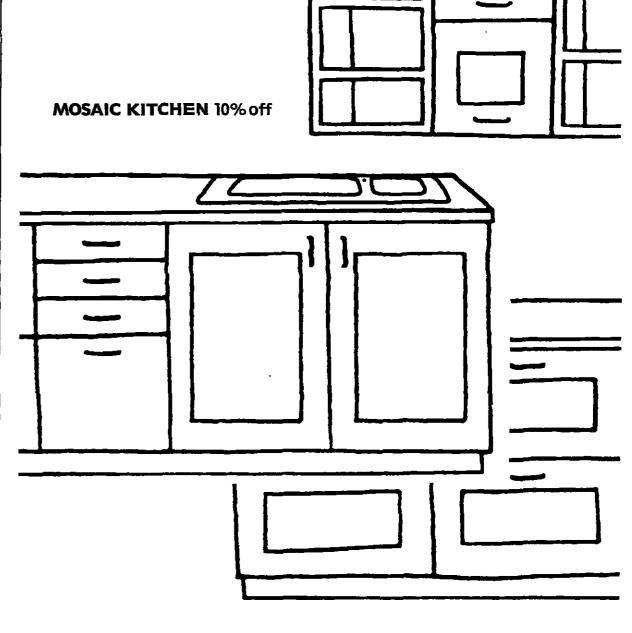
ible light onto the windscreen. "Technically, we are really quite close to this," said Paul Mulvanny, principal technical specialist at Jaguar Engineering in Whitley. His division has al-ready built and tested prototype systems and he reckons that working versions could be incorporated into cars by 2000.

"This could double the pedestrian detection range for the average driver, and quadru-ple it for older drivers," he said. Research has found that drivers try to avoid night journeys as they get older, partly because natural eye deterioration caus-es problems watching the road. especially with oncoming headights. In such circumstances drivers are often unable to see properly because they are temporarily blinded. The infrared system would compensate for

US insurance industry figures suggest that driving at night is disproportionately dangerous: 55 per cent of serious accidents occur at night, with just 28 per cent of daytime traffic volumes.

The biggest problem will be to get the cost low enough to make it economical to include as a standard fitting. The system requires special headlamps, an infrared camera, projector and specially-developed glass for the windscreen.

"It's a chicken-and-egg situation," said Mr Mulvanny. "If we could fit it for free, then everyone would want one. Our initial target is the sort of people who bought in-car navigation system. Those initially cost about £3,000, but the cost has come down considerably. The same would apply here.



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# Tories get personal in war to stop Blair win

**Anthony Bevins** Political Editor

Conservative election campaign managers have urged party officials to dig out "personal items" on Labour frontbenchers in order to generate

fear of a victory by Tony Blair. A Tory strategy paper leaked to Labour says: "There is a real played such a large part in the

last election has been new tion with unions, the policies of tralised. The paper ordered the union which supports them material to be generated for use in the media about the difference between national Labours rhetoric and its inefficiency and

"In all instances," the paper says, "there should be a complete file on the frontbench spokesmen, showing their risk that the fear factor which record in local government where applicable, their affilia-

dogma in local government.

and any personal items like Harman and Blair's choice of schools.

Together with normal briefings to the media, specific TV programmes need to be designed with suggested participants. The media also needs to be encouraged to interview local Labour chairmen of

The first fruits of the Tory strategy have already appeared this week in the Daily Telegraph and The Sun in pieces headlined: "Ten left-wing councils run up debts of £9bn" and

"Labour's town haul of waste". Labour yesterday accused the Tories of hypocrisy, saying that in spite of privatisation proand pressures for more and ceeds, the national debt had doubled to £7,000 for every man, woman and child.

spokesman, Frank Dobson, picked up a report to be published by the official Audit Commission today, which says: 'Councils are caught between a rock and a hard place: between government targets to reduce local authority spending

better services. "Unwelcome though such financial pressure may be, local

wernment has coped well."
Mr Dobson said: "The Audit Commission have exposed the Tory lie machine for what it really is - the same old lies from the same old Tory liars.

The Audit Commission says most councils are doing a good job under increasing difficulties caused in the main by Tory Government policies."

The leaked Conservative paper says: "If Labour are totally incompetent at running local budgets and most of their MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates are drawn from local government or union bodies, how can they run a

national economy?"
In addition to Labour's success in defusing the "fear factor". the Conservative strategists concede Westminster council's "homes for votes" scandal has created a problem. "Homes for

votes has been a brilliantly enacted slur campaign executed by the whole of the Labour Party.

the paper says. "It has made it very difficult for the Government to attack Labour in the critical area of local government." It suggests re-search is needed, "particularly into the activities of the objectors." The "three best stories should be carefully planned and timed for maximum effect.

## Group 4 admits no experience of nurseries

Judith Judd and Fran Abranıs

Group 4, which was paid £14 million to award contracts for inspections of nursery schools, admitted last night that it had no experience of nursery

The company told the Commons Select Committee on Education that a former steel stockholder, an ex-brigadier and the principal of a sixth-form college carried out the interviews for the contractors to inspect nurseries under the nursery vouchers scheme.

Angry opposition MPs pointed out that the inspectors, who have vetted more than 350 private nursery schools for the voucher scheme, have failed just two. Under the schools inspection scheme, which deals with the more thoroughly-regulated state schools, four times as many are deemed to be failures.

Last night, Margaret Hodge, head of Labour's under-fives inquiry team, described the situation as "scandalous."

"Somebody, somewhere

must be putting pressure on. Quality appears to be being sacrificed on the altar of the elec-

in the committee, Rob Soutar from Group 4 said: "The group were selected not as educationalists but to select contractors under the criteria laid down by Ofsted."

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman. told them: "It is slightly odd that you are proudly professing no knowledge of the business these contractors are in."

But a spokeswoman for Ofsted said the fact that only 0.6 per cent of the schools and play groups had failed was good news. "I am sure the parents will be delighted that their schools are providing an acceptable standard for their youngsters. There is not much more I can say," she said.

Labour's spokesman David Blunkett said yesterday that he would cancel the voucher scheme. Vouchers sent out in April would be honoured but no more would be issued in September.



Vanishing species: The paper boy is threatened, according to campaigners - Including the Committee for Diversity and Pluralism - who launched a petition yesterday demanding changes to newspaper distribution rules which they say are driving the corner shop out of business Photograph: Tom Pilston may do so if it wins the election.

### Nolan puts party funding on agenda

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

Lord Nolan is encouraging the setting up of an inquiry into the funding of political parties, after the election.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has been pressing Lord Nolan, who is chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, to hold such an inquiry because of the mystery which sur-rounds the sources of Tory funding, particularly contributions from abroad. Now, in response to a letter from Brian Wilson. Labour's campaign manager, Lord Nolan has said that he would like to see such an inquiry set up once the election is over. He told Mr Wilson: "My own view is that party funding as a general issue is a subject that needs looking at."

The remit of the Nolan committee, set up in the wake of the cash-for-questions affair, does not generally extend to party funding and John Major has refused to sanction an inquiry. But it now appears that Labour

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## Major backs Clarke in Euro showdown

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, today will face a show-down with the Euro-sceptics in the Cabinet over the European Kitkind

With their support, the Cabinet is expected to reaffirm its "wait and see" approach, and will rule out any change of policy before the general election.

By holding the Cabinet de-hate today, Mr Major will be seeking to settle the issue decisively, to avoid it overshadowing the political Cabinet at Chequers on Monday next week, when the outline of the Conservative election manifesto will be agreed.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, led the Cabinet Euro-sceptics in pressing the Chancellor to accept a more Euro-sceptic approach to the single currency. Others backing Mr Howard at a previous Cabinet meeting included Peter

Lilley, Michael Portillo and Gillian Shephard. William Waldegrave, the

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, also took the view that Britain could not enter the first wave of a single currency. That influsingle currency, with the back- enced Stephen Dorrell, the Sec-Britain fundamentally to renegotiate its position in the Eu-

ropean Union. They were hoping to push the Chancellor into changing the policy by announcing that it was unlikely that Britain would enter the single currency in the first wave.

Mr Clarke's allies privately say he believes it is unlikely that Britain will enter the first wave. But he has rejected any shift of policy, arguing that it would be the start of a "slippery slope" leaving the Government with no option in the election but to rule out joining a single currency. He has left an implicit threat that he would resign if a change of

policy was agreed. had insisted that the other

the criteria for entering the single currency. They pointed to the French, who are itsing public sector pension funds to meet the Maastricht debt criteria for The Chancellor will present

member countries were fodging

ing of John Major, Michael retary of State for Health, who the Cabinet with a Treasury pa-Heseltine and Malcolm recently swung demands for per telling colleagues that no judgement can be reached on whether or not the other countries are "fudging" the criteria until after the election. That would leave the Government with no alternative but to support the existing policy.

We are sympathetic but the French example is a one-off. It is not enough evidence on which to decide that the criteria are being fudged," said one ministerial source.

The Euro-sceptics, having made a stand in the Cabinet, are expected to accept the lead taken by the Prime Minister to back Mr Clarke. They resolved to riding out the general election campaign on the "wait and see approach, although The Cabinet Euro-sceptics they have warned it could prove

## Fifth Tory win could alter entire political system

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Another Conservative election win - a fifth consecutive victory - might damage democracy, but it could also bring about a new parliamentary system in which the opposition came from within Tory ranks.

"It won't be a hegemony for a five-year term," one Tory MP warned yesterday. "Another Conservative government would only be able to govern with cross-party support on issues like Europe and the single currency - with the backing of a Labour Party that believes in greater integration.

The normal coalitions, within the parties, are falling apart. We could have as many as 100 Conservative MPs in the next Parliament who have pledged themselves against a single currency in their election addresses. There now seems to be a consensus across the House on spending and taxation. There are no great issues left now between the leaderships of the two main parties, but Europe will provide the focus for resistance.

Will democracy be dam-Conservatives? That depends on the composition of the new House of Commons - whether there are enough Conservative Issues like Europe would create opposition from within the party's own ranks

up to the presidential system." But he was concerned about the feeling of disenfranchisement of voters who would begin to feel that their votes were making no difference.

There are also fears that civil unrest could result from the who were always on the losing side. "Increased enthusiasm for extra-parliamentary activity could be desperately dangerous," one senior Tory told The Independent.

"There would be even more enthusiasm for simply circuminto one's own hands in a way that starts to run up against the rule of law; it starts to run up against the principles of free speech and the democratic de-

ision-making process." One Tory backbencher said aged by the re-election of the that if Labour lost again, the party would lurch to the left, while a Tory defeat would send the Conservatives spinning to the Right. "Isn't it always the MPs with the will to stand case that in the wake of electoral

defeat, parties tend to drift to-ward their least attractive extreme? Because that is where the intellectual soul of the par-

ty tends to be buried. The Labour Party is a party of socialism, it's a party of egalitarianism. The Tories are a party of free enterprise, of capitalism, of private greed, what-ever you want to call it. But it's quite clear that the Tories, when they lose, will start moving to the right. It's always the same. If only we had been truer to our

principles, they say. pent-up frustration of voters Labour lose, then the damage So it seems to me that if to the Labour Party is absolutely horrendous."

Another source said: "It's been said before that the Tories may, if they're sensible, benefit from losing the election. It will actually persuade some of our colleagues that it's not venting the parliamentary process, and taking these issues to explain to people how you're right. Perhaps we've got out of touch with people, perhaps we stopped communicating with them. As such, we've forfeited that link with them which used

to be our strongest weapon. "Mrs Thatcher's link with the average Briton, the average British family, was very strong, very powerful; her instincts tended to be right. Those instincts have been less sure over recent years."

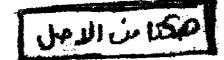
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### Nolan puts part funding on agend

Christian Wolmar Westminster Corresponder

Lord Nolan is encourage setting up of an inquiry in funding of political park for the election. Tony Elair, the Lahou,

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# Physics in decline as colleges cut courses

**Lucy Ward Education Correspondent** 

The University of East Anglia vesterday became the fourth English university this year to end or wield the axe over physics degrees, prompting renewed concern over the subject's decline in Britain.

UEA's governing body voted to shut all its pure physics degree courses - so the present in-take will be the last - blaming a fall in applications and rising costs in the department. The move marks a growing

trend among universities seeking to weed out less popular and more expensive courses to save money, with physics increasingly becoming a target for cuts. Like UEA Coventry Univer-

sity will are its applied physics de-

Degrees of value? Opportunities for physics graduates:

Around half of physics grad uates go on to use their ex-pertise in their chosen career ■ The most popular field for physicists is information technology, where many are involved in computer programming and electronics. Many also choose careers in finance and management, manufacturing, defence, telecommunications, the nuclear industry, medical physics and meteorology.

MGraduate physicists' starting
salaries average £14,000 –
around the average for grad-

uates. Afterwards, pay varies widely according to career, though a doctorate guarantees higher earning power.

Job-seekers with a PhD in particle physics and astrono-

my have among the best employment prospects in the country. Nationally, unem-ployment of particle physicists is less than 2 per cent.

The Institute of Physics

gree after September following a steady decline in the number and quality of applications. At Birkbeck College, part of London University, proposals for wholesale closure of its physics department as part of a package of cost-cutting measures have provoked angry opposition from students and unions. And De Montfort University in Leicester is to merge its physics and chemistry departments in the light of a "sustained national decline in

demand for physics education". The Institute of Physics, the professional body for physicists in the United Kingdom, yesterday described the trend as "enor-mously worrying", and said

The number of physics un-

UEA has 18 first-year physics

A UEA spokeswoman, Anne Ogden, said the university had seen a steep decline in physics applications, and had been cross-subsidising the subject. However, it will maintain physics post-graduate and research work, highly rated in recent research gradings.

Recent research into A-level physics trends by Professor Alan Smithers of Brunel University suggested that students taking the double GCSE science now more common than separate sciences - were out off by the scale of the leap to A-level. Pupils at independent schools. where separate science GCSEs are still the norm, are more likely to pursue the subjects after 16, making the sciences increasingly the pre-

smaller departments were becoming increasingly vulnerable as budget pressures increased. Many colleges already crosssubsidise science subjects, bail-

ing out physics with money from other areas, but with projected cuts of 7 per cent per student across the sector over the next three years they may no longer have the flexibility to do so.

dergraduates has stayed steady in the last few years at around 2,900 annually, but expansion in overall student numbers means that they have declined as a proportion of the total. The decline is more marked at A-level, where numbers taking physics have fallen in 10 years from 50,000 to just over 30,000.

Philip Diamond, higher education and research manager at the Institute of Physics, said the subject suffered from a low rate of research funding. "That means there are many departments in deficit and universities have to make progmatic decisions. Small departments are particularly vulnerable."

undergraduates this year - down from 34 in 1992-3 - while Coventry University has just 11 fulltime first-year physics students. Coventry's vice-chancellor, Dr Mike Goldstein, said the university had grown increasingly concerned about the quality of applicants for physics courses, adding: "We can't go on running more and more courses when there is no strong national or local demand.

serve of the middle classes, Professor Smithers said.

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THE SUNDAY REVIEW



Brain work: Natasha Noramaly, a student, demonstrating the 'neuro-net', a brain scanner being developed at Glasgow University which is one of the projects to benefit from a £1.4m boost to Scotland's blotechnology industry with the launch yesterday of Scottish Start Up Mentoring, a business and technology collaboration Photograph: Peter Devlin

## Anger as subsidised tobacco jobs go to Ulster

Political Correspondent

A tobacco company has been paid £10m by the Government to move to a factory in the Rev Ian Paisley's Ulster constituency

– a move which means a net loss of 650 jobs.

The payment has been attacked as politically motivated by a Labour MP whose constituency will be badly affected by the decision. As the Government struggles to survive without a majority, the 12 Unionist MPs wield an increasing amount of power in Westminster. The row erupted after Gal-

lagher, makers of Silk Cut and Benson and Hedges cigarettes, announced it was to close its factory in Hyde, Greater Manchester in the next four years with the loss of 950 jobs. The firm has been paid to expand its existing operation in Ballymena. Northern Ireland, creating 300 jobs there. Tom Pendry, the MP for

Stalybridge and Hyde, has attacked the move while unions are planning a picket of the Silk Cut rugby league final due to be held at Wembley on 3 May. Sixty five Labour MPs have signed a Commons motion condemning the decision.

Gallagher has two factories in the United Kingdom, one with 950 workers in Hyde and another with 1,100 in Mr Paisley's North Antrim constituency. The Northern Ireland factory is in a Protestant area and 86 per cent of its workforce

Mr Pendry has written to Ian

Lang, the President of the Crewe, Cheshire, within easy now give Tameside [the local Silk Cut final, which is Board of Trade, and to Sir travelling distance from Hyde. area] given that their actions will sponsored by Gallagher. Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to demand explanations for the large grant. He says the move

will cost the firm money because its main distribution centre is in

Mr Pendry said: "It is inexcusable if, in an election year, political decisions are allowed to close a profitable and efficient factory. I want to know what support the government will

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ry, has protested vociferously

deprive the area of 1,000 jobs." The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which represents staff at the Hyde facto-

Ian Birks, general manager for corporate affairs with Gallagher, said that although the grant had helped, the decision was made purely on commercial and is planning a picket of the grounds. And a spokesman for

the Industrial Development Board, which made the grant decision, said: "The support offered is in line with our overall policy which is to encourage the development of internationally competitive



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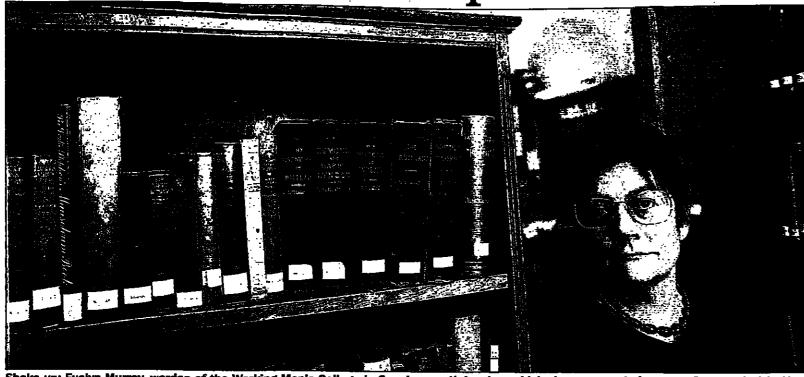
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# Forget Ruskin and William Morris: this woman wants to take the flat cap out of the working men's college thirds of them women, has long



Shake-up: Evelyn Murray, warden of the Working Men's College in Camden, north London, which she says must change

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

One of England's oldest adult education colleges, founded 150 years ago to provide a liberal education for working-class men, is being rocked by an internal dispute over claims that its governors are betraying its socialist roots and succumbing to the pressures of the marketplace.

The Working Men's College, in Camden, north London, which boasts John Ruskin. Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Charles Kingsley among its for-mer staff, is the focus of a clash between a philanthropic educational tradition in which teachers once worked for free, and the harsh reality of modern further-education funding.

The battle to dictate the identity of the college in the next millennium has pitched a group of staff, claiming an ally in the ghost of the institution's Christian Socialist founder Frederick Maurice, against the principal, Lord McIntosh of Haringey,

Labour's deputy spokesman in the House of Lords.

The row centres on plans approved by the college corporation, a board of trustees and directors, for a fundamental shake-up of the way the institution is governed. The proposal is for the present system, in which the corporation oversees the college's trust funds but delegates educational and policy matters to an elected council of staff and students, to be replaced

with a single governing body.

The rebels claim the move. which they hope to challenge in the courts, is undemocratic and out of keeping with the founder's ideals since it would leave no more than one-third of seats on the new body for teachers and students. But Lord McIntosh and the college's warden. Eve-lyn Murray, insist that a change is essential if the tradition of providing education for people with little access to other forms of

study is to be continued. Malvern Hostick, art teacher, college council member and a critic of the reforms, fears they will destroy a key aim of the founder who saw students taking control of their studies. "FD Maurice and his contemporaries felt teachers and students should learn from each other, and that students should eventually set their own curriculum," he said. "I think they would be rather dismayed that, thanks to market forces, we are going back to an autocratic system."

The principal and warden give short shrift to the rebels claims to speak for the founder. The college, which today has more than 2,000 students, two-

left behind its tradition of unpaid teaching, and has only two such staff left. Ms Murray says. "In its heyday, the lecturers were civil servants, lawyers or clergymen who worked in the morning and then came to college for a meal and a bit of teaching in the evening. Nowa-

Funding Council, which finances 15 per cent of the college's courses, praised some teaching but found significant weaknesses in governance, management and quality assurance. Following the report, the corporation set up working groups to devise an action plan, which included the new governance.

Lord McIntosh says the present system does not work.

"Very few students or staff stand
for election and the corporation and council don't actually do the things that are necessary - they don't make difficult decisions on the budget or establish the educational programme. The col-lege had interpreted the founders intentions in the language of the Nineties, and now offered academic qualifications and leisure courses, he said.

The college's class of '97, while doubtless as hungry for knowledge as its forbears, as yet knows little of the dispute raging beneath the institution's William Morris-designed ceilings. "I don't know about the politics," music student Richard Leskin said. "I just come for the course. But I would be worried if the fees went up."

days, ambitious barristers are on the next plane to New York. A report last year by inspectors from the Further Education

#### DAILY POEM

#### Long-Term Misunderstanding

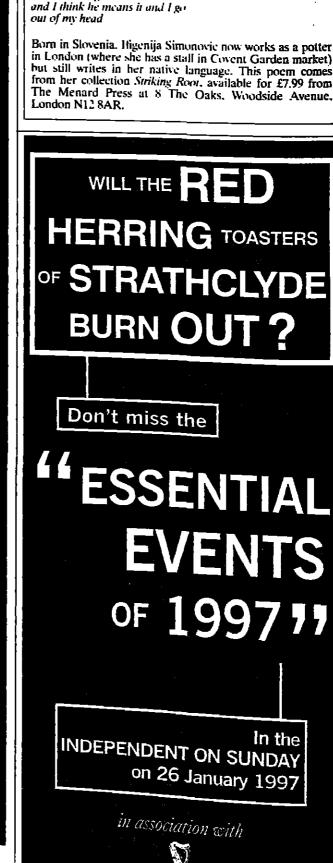
By Ifigenija Simonovic (translated by the author and Anthony Rudolf)

when young he asks: who are you smooth little snake nesting sweetly in my bed and I think: I am a she-welf looking through her teeth to see how to sneak under your skin hu I sav I am little red riding hood

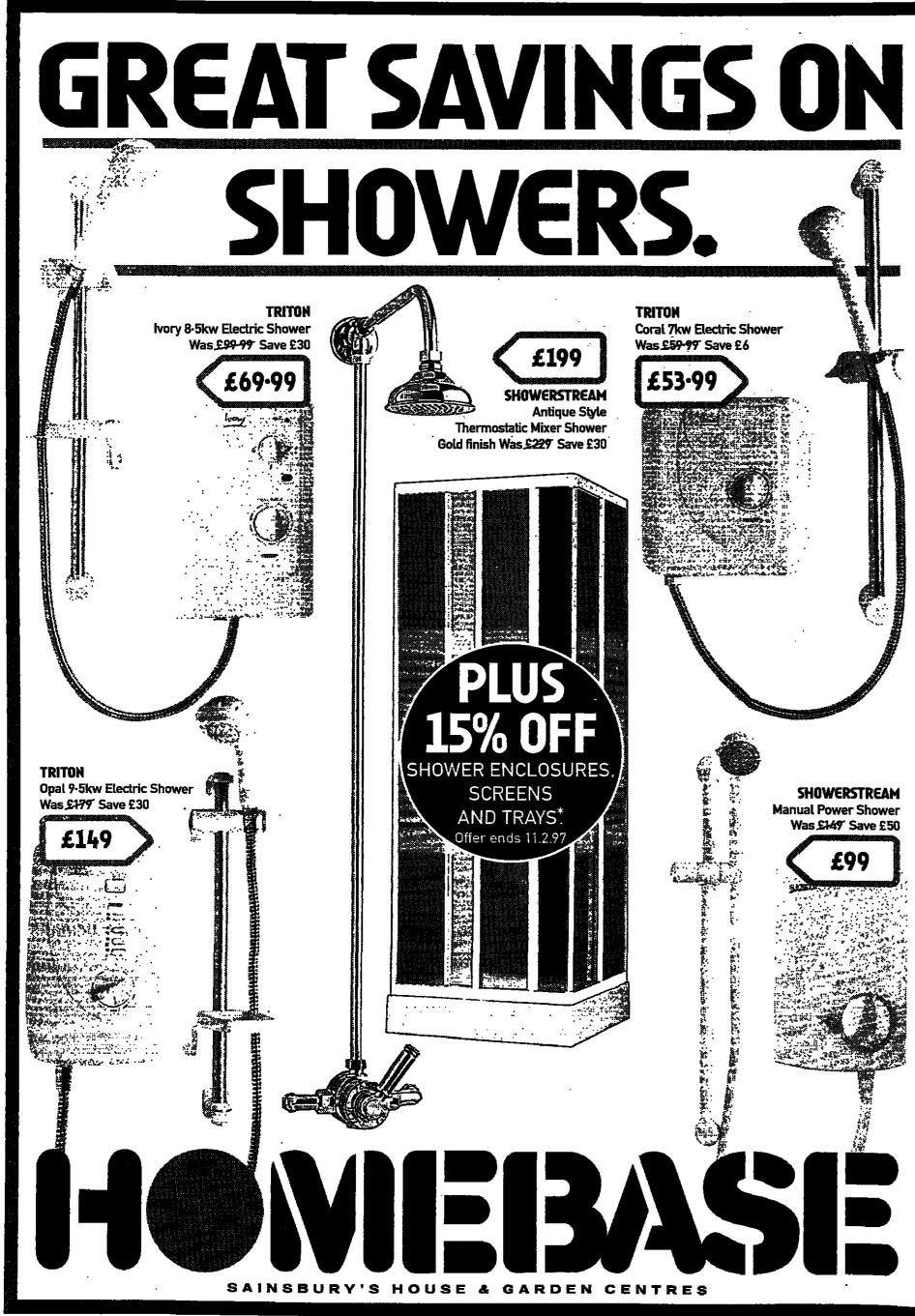
when old he asks: who are you what do you want now what is all this now what else do vou need to fill up and I think: a drop of poison please but I say nothing and he thinks I mean it. I am riding his head little red riding snake

riding your head

Born in Slovenia. Higenija Simonovic now works as a potter in London (where she has a stall in Covent Garden market) but still writes in her native language. This poem comes from her collection Striking Root, available for £7.99 from The Menard Press at 8 The Oaks, Woodside Avenue,



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days, ambitious barrages, the next plane to New h A report last year har tors from the Further False Funding Council, which has 15 per cent of the top courses, praised some hear but found significant nesses in governance, agement and quality avar Following the report the poration set up working to devise an action plan. included the new gracing

sent system does not; Very least addent sor take for election and the corres and council don't actually things that are necessar don't make difficult days. the budget or establishing ucational programme. It lege had interprete: founders intentions in the guage of the Ninetics as offered academic quality schother, and that and leisure course, he The college's class

while doubtless as hugmeulum, he said. actiful be rather the knowledge as its forbar. thanks to market knows infle of the disput ng benezin the insige going back to an William Morris de ignet dput and warden ings of domaiknow they with to the rebels' positives, music studenche ak for the lounder. Leskin said "I just comes which today has or arse But I would be the Otto students, two - in the fees went up?

### DAILY POEM

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WILL THE RED ERRING TOASTERS STRATHCLYDE BURN OUT?

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ESSENTIA EVENTS OF 1997<sup>11</sup>

DEPENDENT ON SUNDA on 26 January 19



#### Patrick Cockburn

The attack which crippled Uday, the son of Saddam Hussein, was organised by a member of the Iraqi leader's own extended family in revenge for the killing of his uncle, a senior army general, seven years ago.

A group of people amoushed Uday, one of the most important members of the regime, as he drove with his girl friend in Baghdad on 12 December. The name of the leader of the group, The Independent has learned from an Iraqi source, is Ra'ad al-Hazaa, the nephew of General Omar Mohammed al-Hazaa who was executed by President Saddam in 1990.

Ra'ad was formerly an officer in the palace guards. When his uncle was killed he was dismissed. He was able to gain intelligence of Uday's movements because he himself was a member of the ruling elite. Along with four or five others involved in the plot Ra'ad is now in Iran. Iraq has officially demanded they be handed over. but Iran denies their presence.

Uday, 32, remains in hospital in Baghdad paralysed by at least four bullet wound. One is lodged in his spine, according to opposition groups. The seriousness of his injuries was con-firmed by the French government's admission last week that he had been seen by a team of French doctors in Bughdad. Paris has refused permission for Uday to come to

France for medical treatment. Credit for the ambush has been claimed by a number of opposition groups, notably by al-Dawa, an extreme Shia Muslim militant movement which in the past has made guerrilla attacks on the regime.

An Iraqi familiar with the

events surrounding the attack says: "Al-Dawa were involved in the logistics and knew what was happening. There have always been Shia willing to die to assassinate leading mem-bers of the regime. But they never had access to the intelligence you would need to be successful. The Hazaa family, as part of the clite, could provide this,"

The origins of the feud which

BSE deaths

herald crisis

in Germany

Germany has ordered the

imported from Britain and

imposed tighter restrictions

on their offspring, after a

crisis meeting of ministers. Following the death last

week of the fifth German-

born cow to fall victim to

passed on from its British-

Germany were reprieved,

although they will not be

allowed to be slaughtered

for meat. Imre Karacs - Bonn

born mother, 5,200 animals

are to be destroyed. Another

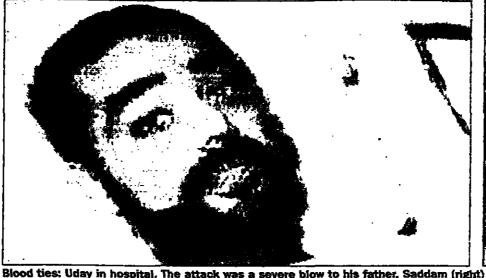
encephalopathy (BSE),

hovine spongiform

7,000 calves born in

slaughter of all cows

Switzerland, and has



Blood ties: Uday in hospital. The attack was a severe blow to his father, Saddam (right

led to the assassination attempt lie in the bloodthirsty politics of President Saddam's extended family. They come from the Sunni Muslim heartland of Tikrit, a city on the Tigris, north of Baghdad. Iraq's ruling circle is known as "the Tikritis."

From the 1970s General Hazaa was a divisional commander in the army and an important member of this ruling elite. When President Saddam at-

tacked Iran in 1980, beginning an eight- year war in which half a million died, General Hazaa

became critical of the regime. He left the army and spent much of his time in the retired army officer's club in the Yarmuk district of Baghdad where he had his house. He is said by other officers to have

expressed contempt for Presi-

صكنات الاحل

Mutilation that led to attack on Saddam's son

Photograph: Reuter his return last year. Uday's dent Saddam's branch of the may also have made him an easclan, which comes from the

village of al-Ouju, just outside Tikrit, and was not part of the clan's traditional leadership. An Iraqi army officer now in

got drunk and criticised Presi-

ier target. Ra'ad and a number of other gunmen waited for Uday near the racecourse in the wealthy al-Mansur district of Baghdad exile says General Hazaa often on 12 December. They are said

executed. His son Faroug was

killed at the same time and the

general's house in Baghdad

The mutilation of political

prisoners before execution is

common in Iraq as a way of

intimidating relatives to whom

Uday is not known to have

taken part in the killing. But he

is notorious as the most violent

member of the regime, beating

his father's personal bodyguard

Kamil Hussein Jajo to death in

1988. He precipitated the flight of General Hussein Kamil.

President Saddam's son-in-law.

in 1995, and murdered him on

drunkenness and womanising

by an Iraqi source to have re-

was bulldozed."

the body is returned.

dent Saddam. He says: "In ceived information about his 1990 the general was arrested. He was taken to al-Ouja and his whereabouts from "Lubna", a girl with him the car. There are tongue was cut out. Then he was conflicting reports that she was killed or wounded in the attack.
After the ambush, the most

successful assault on President Saddam's inner family ever carried out, the attackers fled to Iran, though the Iranians had no prior knowledge of the assassination. The Iraqi Foreign Minister demanded through the UN Security Council that they be handed over. Iran denied it knew anything about them. The attackers were apparently worried Iran might covertly return them to Baghdad and gave mformation to friends abroad

about their predicament. The attack is a blow to the regime. It makes Qusai, President Saddam's other son, the heir apparent. It is the first time members of the President's clan have co-operated with Shia militants. It comes just as the regime appeared to be growing stronger after its successful military intervention in Kurdistan and the limited resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

#### significant shorts

#### Communists fail to oust Yeltsin

A long-shot Communist bid to oust President Boris Yeltsin for being ill failed in parliament yesterday. The Communists could not muster enough support to pass the resolution.

Such a resolution would have declared Yeltsin's presidency "terminated"; the Prime Minister, Victor Chernomyrdin, would have been placed in charge, and a presidential election called. But the resolution's sponsor vowed to continue his battle to get rid of Mr Yeltsin and claimed that procedural errors marred the vote.

The move came only hours after Mr Yeltsin showed up at the Kremlin for the first time since falling Euthanasia ill on 6 January. The surprise trip was clearly timed to quell claims that he is too sick to handle government affairs. AP - Moscow

#### Paris bank chief freed

Hundreds of employees occupying the Paris headquarters of the troubled state bank Credit Foncier de France released its chairman, Jerome Meyssonnier, but said that the siege, in its sixth day, would continue.

The Finance Minister, Jean Arthuis, who has been under intense pressure over his plans for the bank, said that the release would allow a serious dialogue to begin. Reuters – Paris

General Media

publishes *Penthouse*, sued the department to block

enforcement of the Military

Honour and Decency Act.

sex battle A federal judge ruled that a new law banning the sale of Sixteen members of sexually explicit material at squad sought political United States governmentoperated military stores violates the First Amendment, which pledges freedom of speech.

In a victory for Penthouse magazine, the US District Judge Shira Scheindlin hotel near Rome airport ordered that the Department of Defense be restrained while on their way to from changing the military's stock or selling policies. Morocco. Reuters - Rome Communications, which

#### Pas de fumer

French smokers were furning

#### law 'works' A 69-year-old man has ...

become the third Australian to commit suicide under the cuthanasia law of the Northern Territory and s said the d the controversial law is now working well. The unnamed man was suffering from terminal stomach cancer.

#### French rail strike

France's two biggest rail unions called for a strike on 30 January against plans to reform the heavily indebted SNCF state railway.

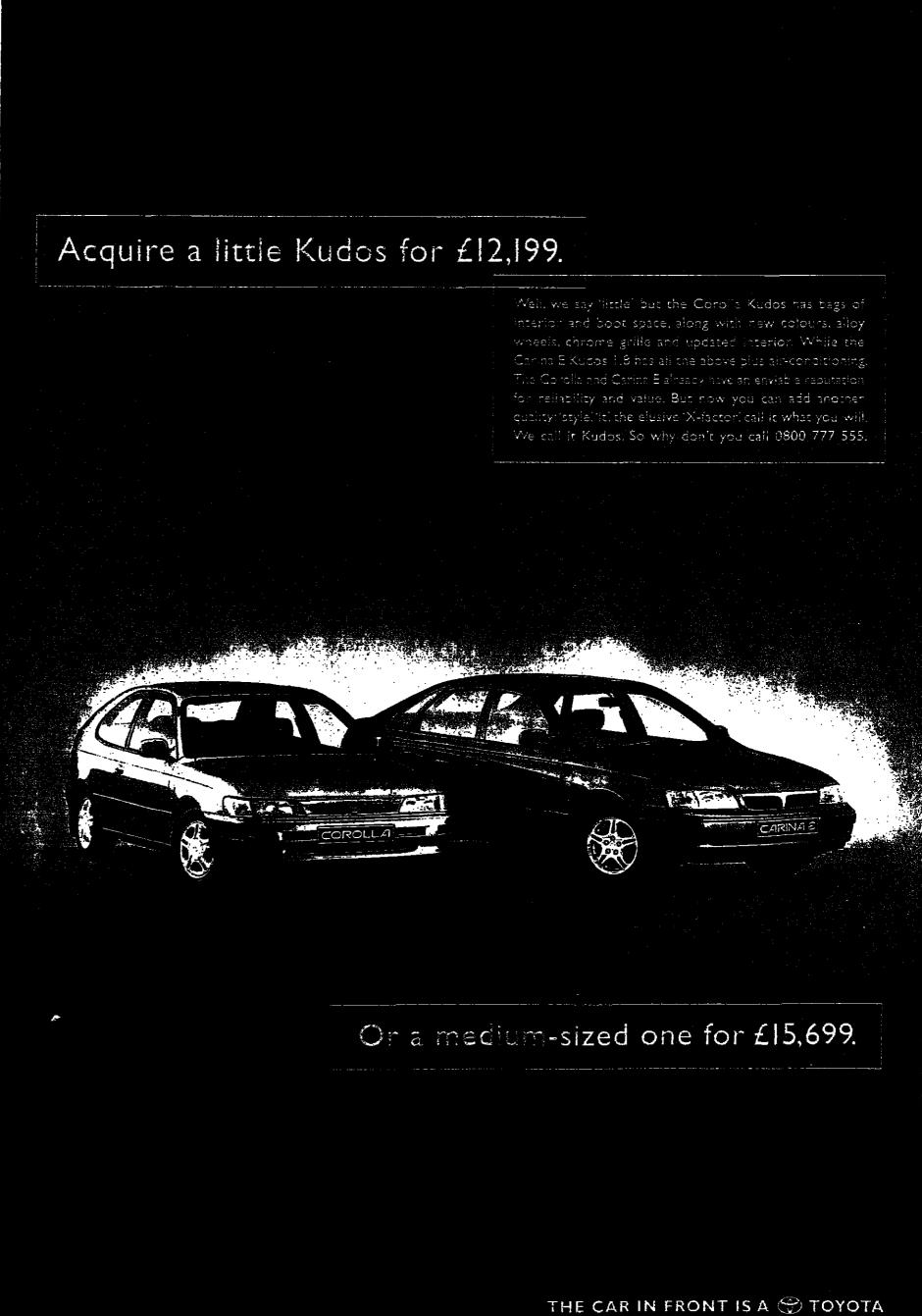
#### Military loses Ethiopia team goes offside

Ethiopia's national soccer asylum in Italy, leaving their country without a proper team after slipping their escort during a stopover on the way to a match.

The 15 players and their coach disappeared from a where they had been staying Casablanca for an African Nations' Cup match against

over the country's first





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## Kohl fends off storm over tax cut fiasco

Imre Karacs

The German government's great tax give-away, which was intended to revive the economy and help re-elect Chancellor Helmut Kohl next year, has whipped up a storm within the coalition and provoked calls for the resignation of the Finance Minister.

The proposed leaner tax system for a fitter Germany is due to be unveiled today, but has already been condemned for its lack of vision. It is a blueprint of which Britain's Conservative government would be proud: headline income-tax rates are to be reduced but the real level of taxation will barely change.

The best visual illustration of the new system appeared in the conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, which yesterday carried a cartoon showing a piggy-bank with two slots. One is for rebates trickling in, whilst the second is for money pouring back to the state in the form

of new taxes.

The good news is that, if Mr Kohl is re-elected, the top rate of income tax will fall in 1999 from 53 per cent to 39 per cent. At the other end of the scale, the bottom rate falls to 15 per cent from 26 per cent today. Germans earning less than 13,000 marks (£5,000) a year will pay no income tax at all.

Corporation tax will be slashed next year from 47 per cent to 35 per cent, bringing cheer to companies currently saddled with the highest wage bill and some of the highest deductions in Europe. The German tax jungle, in which exemptions outnumber the rules, will be pruned back, though not as savagely as originally anticipated.

The bad news is that despite abolishing a myriad breaks, slapping tax for the first time on the industrial world.

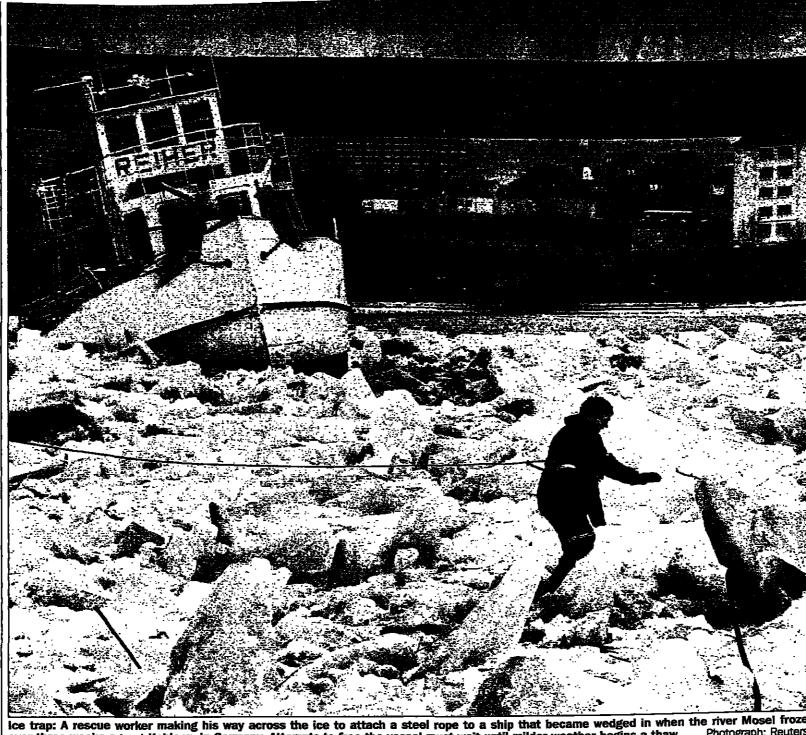
certain overtime earnings and raising more revenue from pensions, the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, is DM25bn short of balancing the books. In the tooth of opposition from his ideological soul-mates, Mr Waigel is planning to plug the gap with a 1-per-cent hike in VAT, bringing it to 16 per cent.

That proposal has predictably raised opposition heckles, and accusations that the government is promising "tax cuts on one side and taking money out of people's pockets on the other". But such criticism from the Social Democrats was mild by comparison to the hysteria emanating from Mr Kohl's Christian Democrat party.

"If we don't go on to the offensive with a drastic tax cut as we promised, then a cabinet reshuffle would be desirable, argued Christian Wulff, a provincial leader of Mr Kohl's party. Mr Wulff was only one of a group, dubbed the "wild demanding Mr Waigel's head and implicitly accusing the Chancellor himself of broken promises.

Mr Kohl has sprung to his Finance Minister's defence, but has failed to silence a rare rebellion in the party. The row augurs ill for a re-election campaign that was to be fought on the tax record of his 14-year reign. The Chancellor may be forced to send Mr Waigel back to the drawing board today.

Even if the VAT rise can be averted, Mr Kohl's progress towards next year's elections will no longer appear a triumphant march. The consensus view is that social justice has suffered, without a commensurate benefit to business. And the welfare costs borne equally by employers and employees will remain on a steeply rising curve, enremain the most expensive in



over three weeks ago at Koblenz, in Germany. Attempts to free the vessel must wait until milder weather begins a thaw

## Leung 'was not a Chinese agent'

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER GIRO CURRENT ACCOUNT

The Hong Kong government has categorically denied that Lawrence Leung, the former director of immigration, was a Chinese agent, and that he disclosed information on dissidents or supplied details to unanthorised parties of holders of British passports, granted under the highly secret

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British Nationality Scheme. These denials were made esterday by Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, when she appeared before a legislator's inquiry trying to get to the bottom of the reasons for Mr Leung's sudden departure last year.

The government has, however, now admitted that it was being "uarrow with the truth" when it said that Mr Leung had left the service for "per-

sonal reasons". Mrs Chan emphasised yesterday that he was forced to go because his business dealings "cast serious doubt over Mr Leung's integrity, character and his suitability to remain in his

"We were not trying to cov-er up", she said, "we felt, the less publicity the better". Mrs Chan told the legislators that their inquiry was damaging the "morale and image of the Immigration Department" and urged them to close it as soon as possible.

that they were still not satisfied they had been told the full story behind Mr Leang's

departure.
Mrs Chan added to the shroud of secrecy by insisting that most of her evidence was given in camera and that two reports made by the police and the anti-corruption agency, should only be given to mem-



Anson Chan: 'Leung's integrity cast into doubt'

bers of the inquiry on condition that their contents remained After reading these reports the inquiry's chairman, Ip

Kwok-him, said he was "shocked". On being reminded

not supposed to comment on the substance of the inquiry, Mr In hastily said that he meant he was shocked that the government was not prepared to make these documents available

The Leung scandal has been casting a heavy shadow over Governor Chris Patten's claims to be running an honest and open administration.

At times the government has suggested that it has given full answers to all the questions raised, while at other times it gested toat interest in the affair has been blown out of

Yesterday Mrs Chan made it clear that the fate of Mr Leung was of considerable public interest because he held a post responsible for a range of sensitive issues that could affect every man, woman and child in Hong Kong, as well as overseas visitors".

## Rifkind soothes Gibraltar passports fear

Secon puts defer the

Elizabeth Nash Madrid

The Spanish government yes-terday quashed fears recently swirling around the Rock that Gibraltar passport holders might be prevented from from entering Spain.

Suggestions that Spain might suggestions that spain might cease to recognise British pass-ports issued in Gibraltar prompted howis of protest in the colony ahead of talks in Madrid vesterday between the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and his Spanish counterpart Abel Matutes. The outcry forced the matter to the top of the ministers agenda.

After yesterday's meeting.

the latest in regular bilateral talks on Gibraltar, Mr Matutes stressed that Spain did not and would not question Gibraltarians right to move freely between Gibraltar, Spain and elsewhere in the European Union. Spain recognises the right of Gibraltarians to circulate freely in the EU and will act as it has always done to respect this right." he said. He added that British and Spanish civil servants were to resolve jointly some technical problems.

Mr Rifkind said he welcomed

Mr Matutes clarification and hoped this would "remove the anxiety of the last few weeks". He said the suggestions concerning possible action against Gibraltar-issued passports had come not from the minister but from Spanish officials. Asked whether he now ex-

pected these suggestions to subside, Mr Rifkind said: "It would not be possible to reconcile Mr Matutes' statement with the rumours of recent days." He added that the technical problems related to passports of Gibraltarians who were British subjects because of their residence in a dependent territory, but without right of abode in the United Kingdom. Only a small proportion of Gibral-tarians use these passports. Most use ordinary British pass-ports with Gibraltar stamped on them that give them right of movement in the EU," he said.

Referring to Spain's centuries long claim to the Rock, he said the sovereignty issue should be "addressed", but any changes would be based on Gibraltarians' consent. He preterred the more pragmatic an proach, like that adopted with Argentina over the Falkland Islands which produced an agreement on oil exploration in the South Atlantic.

Mr Rifkind said Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, would shortly introduce stiffer measures to combat illicit acthe laundering of drug money.

## Reading between the lines of an uncertain future

Damascus — Nafez Shamas admits he censored a book in the English department at Damascus University, "I advised the university to ban a book of historical stories because it described Golda Meir as a great leader," he says. "She led her country in an aggressive war and killed my people here. I have no

But Dr Shamas, senior lecturer in applied linguistics, is no government hack. Indeed, he is not a Baathist but a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) whose nationalist - as opposed to pan-Arab ambitions stretch to a Greater Syria that would include Cyprus as well as Lebanon, Palestine and modern-day Israel. Like many SSNP adherents, he is a

His 6,000 students have no prohibitions on their reading: King Lear, Hamlet, Twelfth Nigh and Macbeth are on the English department's syllabus this year. even though the latter might sug-gest the inevitable downfall of more than one Middle East potentate. Dr Shamas reports the arrival of the first computer in the English department and the appointment of the first departmental secretary with a masters degree in educational studies.

Because of lack of funds and the lack of signed copyright agreements with Syria - foreign books are photocopied and bound in the university library. And academic life is freer than before. "In 1971, people who applied to be teaching assistants had to be members of the [ruling] Baath party or had to have especially high marks in their subject. It's not in the regulations that you now have to be a Baathist.



Robert Fisk concludes his series on Syria by seeking out an academic unafraid to speak his mind

Dr Shamas is no moderate when it comes to Israel. The SSNP supported Syrian military intervention in Lebanon in 1976, regarding the operation as a form of resistance to Israel. A publishing company owned by President Assad's minister of defence, Musiapha Tlass, printed The Rise of Nations, the

**6** Every citizen should be cautious and a little bit afraid of the consequences of the president passing away 🤊

most important work by the SSNP's Christian founder. Antoine Saad.

"Israel was implanted here as a colonial extension." Dr Shamas says. "The Americans haven't changed an inch from their position. And Israel will not stop its aggression unless it is faced with reasonable power. We don't believe in the existence of Israel at all." Which is not exactly the policy of the Baath.

whose leadership has been - at least until the Likud election victory in Israel - deeply involved in the "peace process". Yet it's not difficult to see why

folk like Dr Shamas feel free to speak their minds on subjects over which most Syrians would guard their tongues. Born into a farmer's family at Kafrun, a

Hafez al-Assad: President

of Syria since 1971

mixed village of Christians and Alawites – the community from which the president comes - Dr Shamas agrees that the question of a succession to Hafez el-Assad is a matter that concerns all his countrymen.

Every rational citizen in this country should be cautious and a little bit afraid of the consequences of the president passing away one day. he says. we had to bring our own chalk we had to bring our own chalk "Personally, I hope that the son to write on the blackboard?"

|Bashar| takes over." President Assad's favourite son Basil died in a car accident in 1994.

Syria's enemies talk of chaos when President Assad dies, suggesting - some might say encouraging - the idea of a conflict between Alawites and the majority Sunni community. Dr Shamas ridicules the idea. President Assad is a very unique man, a very bright man, the only one who was prepared to stand against the regional leadership of the Baath party in the 1960s [which led to Assad's bloodless coup or corrective movement in 1970].

I'm more optimistic than apprehensive. Sectarianism is very fragile and superficial – it's not powerful enough to lead Syria into a sectarian or religious war. All my friends are Sunnis or Alawites. And if the state of tension with Israel continues, this will help stability. Because where you have pressure from outside, people tend to be more unified inside a country."

Ironically, the SSNP, which struggled against French colonial rule after the First World War, favours the current French policy of balancing American power in the Middle East. "Europe now needs economic

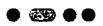
advancement rather than military occupation here." Dr Shamas says. "Politics have changed." So, he believes, has education. "I know we were criticised hy Unesco and by some Western scholars," he says. "But our people are going to miversities in Britain and doing well in higher degrees. In our university, we have chalk available now in our classes. Do you

gift vouchers Bank the way you want when you want It's a simple challenge. You can get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers when you open an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account with £200\* before 28 March 1997. We'll send your vouchers to you - and you'll enjoy all these benefits: Bank at almost 20,000 Post Offices. Track . Bank by telephone, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. down your Withdraw cash at over 9,000 LINK machines. Marks & Spencer Debit, cash and cheque guarantee cards. vouchers (Subject to status.) now Bank by post. To qualify for your £20 worth of youchers, request your application form today. Call us free, 24 hours a day, or complete and return the coupon below. Call FREE today 0800 41 22 14 Quote ref: \$16 Track down an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account today Please send me full details of the Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account, including information on how to open an account, an application form and my claim form for £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers. bend to: Alliance & Leicester Giro, FREEPOST CV2217. Stratford Upon Asron, CV37 9BR. (No stamp needed.) Please do not send any money with this application form,

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## international

## Rifkind soothes Gibraltar passports

Madrid

Suggestions that Spain may cease to recognise British par ports issued in Gibrale of the ministers' agenda. After vesterday's medical

stressed that Spain did not a would not question Gibrale ians right to move frech h tween Gibraltar, Spain a elsewhere in the Europe Union. Spain recognises a right of Gibraltarians to qua late freely in the EU and will. as it has always done to rep-

Mr Raffaind and he weken Mr Matutes clarification a hoped this would remove it anxiety of the last few week He said the suggestions of cerning possible action again Contraditor issued passportely come not from the ministry from Spanish officials. Assured whether he now a

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Elizabeth Nash

The Spanish government he The Spanish government in terday quashed fears record swirling around the Rock to Gibraltar passport holds might be prevented from free

prompted howls of protection talk t Madrid yesterday between a Foreign Secretary Maket Riskind and his Spanish one terpan Abel Matutes, Thew ery forced the matter to they-

the latest in regular bilate. talks on Gibraliar, Mr Malue this right, he said. He att that British and Spanish e servants were to resolve par h, some technical problem

guilty in a unanimous verdict. They dwelt on Mr Simpson's bizarre flight from justice with a gun at his own head, his suicide note, and fibres allegedly matching his blueblack clothes found at the murder scene. "They have clearly proved heyond reasonable doubt that he was the killer. But that doesn't mean these jurors will share my assessment.5 Mr Arenella said.

Tim Cornwell

any reasonable doubt."

"There is a killer in this courtroom,"

attorney Daniel Petrocelli told the

jury, summing up his case in the OJ

Simpson civil trial. "We've proved it

to a certainty. We've proved it beyond

liberations late today in the wrong-ful death law suit, opening the final

chapter in the Simpson case. Lust

Thursday, told that they had heard

the last of 101 witnesses over 41 days

of testimony, they left the courtroom

smiling.
The irony of the civil trial for Pe-

ter Arenella, a Los Angeles law pro-

criminal trial, where he was found not

Los Angeles

Only two weeks ago lawyers for the families of Mr Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, waiter Ronald Goldman. who were stabbed and slashed to death in June 1994, produced what commentators agree is one of the most damning pieces of evidence in the case. It was a reel of 30 newly discovered photographs of Mr Simpson, wearing what were identified as rare Italian-designed Bruno Magli shoes. One was published in a newspaper before the killings, ruling out fraud. Mr Simpson denied ever owning such shoes, but his defence never tried to contest that they matched bloody footprints at the murder scene. "If that photo is real," said Mr Petrocelli, pointing to one of them, "that's it. It's the end of the ball game. There's nothing more to talk about."

From the outset the dynamics of the civil case, with Mr Simpson sued for money damages by the Brown and Goldman families, have been different. The Santa Monica jury, sworn in three months ago, included eight whites, two blacks, a Latino woman and a Jamaican immigrant who called himself half black, half Asian. The jury of seven women and five Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki, vowing to premen were expected to begin their devent a "circus atmosphere", banned cameras and barred either side from

talking to the press. He barred defence theories that Mrs Simpson was killed in a drug hit, and evidence that Detective Mark Fuhrman - a lead investigator - was lying racist, as irrelevant.

The highlight came with Mr Simpson's testimony. When he appeared for questioning by his own lawyers last week, the former football star fessor, is that the plaintiffs presented a far more compelling case against Mr Simpson than the prosecutors in his and actor portrayed himself as his wife's concerned confident and friend, rather than abuser and killer. At the same time, his lawyers launched an assault on Mrs Simpson

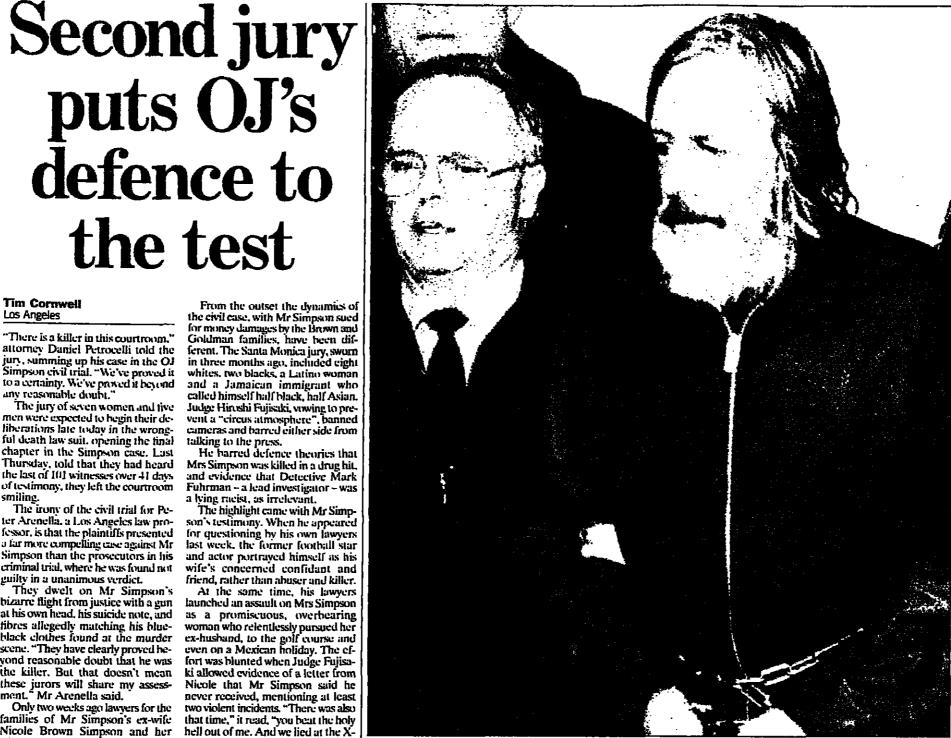
as a promiscuous, overbearing woman who relentlessly pursued her ex-husband, to the golf course and even on a Mexican holiday. The effort was blunted when Judge Fujisaki allowed evidence of a letter from Nicole that Mr Simpson said he never received, mentioning at least two violent incidents. "There was also that time," it read, "you beat the holy hell out of me. And we lied at the Xray lab and said I fell off a bike." Mr Petrocelli, the Goldman fam-

ily attorney, has repeatedly tried to destroy any lingering image of Mr Simpson as the dream athlete. "He's lying, he's lying, he's lying," he said this week. "And he got caught, got caught, got caught.

Mr Simpson's legal team have been quietly telling reporters that they have won over three or four jurors. They have raised Detective Fuhrman's name at every turn, and with it the notion that Mr Simpson was framed. In the civil case, with Mr Simpson sued for money damages, a nine-tothree majority suffices. A hung jury would be a victory for Mr Simpson. with little likelihood of a retrial.

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حكذا من الاحل

Mr du Pont in court; he is charged with shooting dead an Olympic champion wrestler

Photograph:AP

## Insanity plea is likely for richest killer

David Usborne

New York

In a Pennsylvania town aptly called Media, the trial is getting under way of John du Pont, the millionaire chemical heir who is accused of fatally shooting an Olympic champion wrestler on his estate almost one year ago.

With a straggling white heard and drawn face, Mr du Pont is believed to be richest man ever to face first-degree murder charges in American history. For that reason alone Media is braced for a media assault. That Mr du Pont, who is 58.

killed the wrestler, Dave Schultz, on 26 January last year is not likely to be disputed. The trial, which is set to begin in earnest on Monday and last about a month, will turn on defence claims that Mr du Pont

was clinically insane at the time. The point was made clearly to the court by Judge Patricia Jenkins as the selection of jury

members began this week. "It may be that the dispute underlying this case will be the mental state of Mr du Pont at the time," she said.

Mr Schultz was living on Mr du Pont's extensive Foxcatcher Estate on the outside of Philadelphia where he was employed as a coach in a private wrestling school.

Mr du Pont had a longtime passion for the sport. The delendant shot Mr Schultz, pumping three bullets into his chest from close range, after confronting him outside the wrestler's house.

Witnesses are expected to testify that Mr du Pont had been exhibiting eccentric behaviour for at least four years prior to the shooting. After his arrest, the famous heir was admitted to a state mental hospital and treated for schizophrenia.

Mr du Pont is said in particular to suffer from extravagant delusions that he is alternatively either Jesus Christ, the Dalai Lama or the last surviving child

of the Russian Royal family. He has also insisted that he is the target of an international assassination plot.

Lawyers for Mr du Pont have said in court papers that he suffers from "severe paranoid schizophrenia manifested by multiple grandiose and perse-cution delusions and disorganisation of thought".

Seated in the court yesterday was the widow of Mr Schultz, Nancy, who is expected to remain for the entire trial. For his part, Mr du Pont spent the day vesterday staring vacantly and blankly around the courtroom. He was wearing a "Foxcatcher" wrestling sweatshirt in court.

On Mr du Pont's pay, meanwhile, are jury consultants who worked for O J Simpson. Their role will be to assist the heir's lawyers in trying to pick the best possible jurors for the defence case before the first evidence is presented next week.

Mr du Pont, who was arrested after several days of siege during which he refused to come out of his house, is charged with first- and third-degree murder and related of-

If he is found guilty of firstdegree murder he will be face an automatic life sentence.

## New York's optimistic 'grey lady' set to go national

**David Usborne** 

Long burdened with the nickname the "grey lady" for its sober ap-pearance and high-brow content, the New York Times is to take on some extra weight and a dash of colour while spreading itself more generously around the country.

The newspaper, which began publishing in 1851, yesterday outlined

an ambitious programme of expansion apparently driven by renewed optimism about revenue prospects, particularly from national advertising.

While some of its weekend sections have boasted editorial colour for some time, a new printing plant in the New York district of Queens that is due to open in September will extend it to the main news section, the

paper announced. The change will begin with the Sport Section and eventually include the front page. Most notable, however, are efforts

being promised to give the Times a more genuinely national presence. Currently in the United States, it is only USA Today and perhaps the Wall Street Journal that can truly claim to be national daily newspapers. The Times revealed that it is to be-

regional daily papers and one national magazine to improve distribution to all parts of the country. "We were seeing particularly strong growth in national advertis-

in both the Boston and Washington

DC areas to supply 110,000 readers

mid-Atlantic regions. In the mean-

gin printing immediately in plants ing," commented Janet Robinson president and general manager of the paper. "That made us examine spread through the north-east and where we were going after advertising and where we were going after time, it has signed contracts with 33 circulation."

The fortunes of American news papers as a whole have also been boosted recently by a moderation in newsprint prices which in recent years had risen to crippling levels.

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## Prostitutes from the slum may hold key to Aids cure

Nairobi

Monica Marwa is a 25-year-old prostitute living in the notorious Majengo slum on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. She charges between 30 and 50 Kenyan shillings (between 33 and 55 pence) for sex. There is nothing extraordinary about her line of work nor about her fees it is estimated that more than half of the women in Majengo sell their bodies for such paltry rewards.

What is surprising is that, despite years of unprotected sex and exposure to the HIV virus. Monica seems to be immune to Aids.

Hers is one of some 40 similar cases in Majengo which scientists believe could hold the key to an Aids cure. In a programme bringing together the University of Nairobi with Oxford University and two universities in North America, researchers are mapping the genes of Majengo's HIV-resistant women in an effort to discover what it is that protects them from infection.

We are taking blood from the HIV-negative women and their relatives as well as from some women who have tested positive," says Dr Ephantus Njagi, whose work at the Majengo clinic for commercial sex workers is at the forefront of the research programme. "At the moment we believe some women have a genetic make-up

300

which enables them to produce something which kills off the virus.

Eventually, we hope it will be possible to produce a vaccine which will immunise people against Aids."

HIV-resistance is considered the "hottest" area of Aids research. To date, most studies on the subject have been confined to homosexual men in the United States.

Nearly 1,900 commercial sex workers have been documented since the clinic at Majengo was opened just over 10 years ago. In that time, 400 of the women have died of Aids. More than 90 per cent of the clinic's clients are HIV-positive.

"I'm really surprised I'm negative," says Monica on the day she calls at the clinic for a biannual blood test. "When I started in 1991, I never asked the men to use a condom. I only began insisting on it in 1993. Quite a few of my friends have died of Aids. I thank God, I'm very lucky." When Monica comes to the clinic

she takes three cartons containing 144 condoms each. Although they are free, condom usage is estimated at only 70 per cent among Majengo's prostitutes. Even the HIV-negative women

are advised to use condoms as their immunity cannot be guaranteed.

Monica has an average of four or five clients a day though towards the end of the month, when workers are paid, that number can rise to 15 or 20 a day.

The evidence that HIV resistance could be genetic is persuasive. Two of the HIV-resistant women attending the clinic, categorised as Nos 887 and 893, are sisters. No 887 has three daughters, all prostitutes, who have consistently proved to be HIV-negative. No 893 has two daughters who work as prostitutes and are also HIV-

Yet, resistance to the virus is not automatically inherited by all family members. Mastura Adam, another prostitute, is HIV-negative despite exposure to the virus. Both her aunt and her sister are sex workers. Yet while the former has proved immune to HIV infection, the latter is seropositive.

The HIV-resistant women at Majengo show no trace of the HIV antibodies normally associated with people who indulge in high-risk sexual behaviour. Yet they regularly be-come infected with sexually transmitted diseases so must also be frequently exposed to HIV. Cases like theirs are fuelling speculation that some people are genetically programmed to produce specialised cells which neutralise the virus after it enters their bodies.

It is estimated that in Kenya a million people - more than 7 per cent of the population - are HIV positive. In some areas of Nairobi, 20 to 30 per check-ups are infected with the virus. HIV-negative despite exposure to the virus



Photograph: David Orr

# Poverty squeezes blood out of Russia

Moscow

For once, Andrei Rogovoy had a good day. Since leaving the army, he has been searching for a job which would put enough food on the table for his wife and one-year-old daughter. Yesterday he found one, albeit

short-lived; he sold his blood. By Russian standards, the returns were good - just over \$20 (£12). And although he can only give blood once every two months, he can sell plasma once a fortnight for double the fee. By the month's end. he should have struggled above the national poverty line.

Unlike many blood donors. Mr Rogovoy, 22 is motivated by cash. He is not alone. True, some of the 150 people who queue daily in the dingy corridors of the Moscow blood transfusion centre are altruists, or merely looking for drinks money (the crowds double just before public holidays). But plenty are drawn there by need.

The donors - ranging from dismally-paid economists and accountants to soldiers whose pay packets have been delayed all live in an economy that has yet to deliver the promised riches that rang so loudly in their ears when Russia embarked on its free market reforms.

In the last few days, the Russian government has churned out statistics providing further evidence that the downward spiral which began shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union is proving harder to correct than many of the advocates of reform. including leading Western economists, had predicted.

In 1996, Russia's gross do-mestic product (GDP) plunged 6 per cent, 2 per cent more than in the previous year. Wage arrears rose to more than \$8bn. money owed to tens of millions of employees, from teachers to air traffic controllers and policemen. On average, the profits of those enterprises that were making money fell by half in the first nine months of the year. dealing vet another blow to the government's tax collectors, who were already losing a

battle against non-payment. To be fair, there was a din in the number of people below the government-defined poverty line, earning less than \$68 per month. But the figure is still appallingly high - 32 million peopopulation. Unemployment is growing, hitting 9.3 per cent in December, according to official estimates - although a report released yesterday by Guy Standing of the International Labour Organisation said the true figure is far higher. Russia's Economics Minister,

Yevgeny Yasin, has been surprisingly willing to admit that his government's reforms failed last year. There was, he conceded, only one significant advance: a tenfold drop in the inflation rate of the previous vear to just over 20 per cent. Frantic efforts to ensure the reelection of Boris Yeltsin by handing out promises of money across the country overrode good housekeeping. "We sacrificed 1996 to the altar of democracy, the minister said. Now with Mr Yeltsin back in

office - albeit sick, isolated and fending off cries for his resignation - Mr Yasin's ministry is planning a counter-attack. It has presented the government with a three-year plan to turn the economy around, which he unveiled yesterday. It is an odd mixture of tough Thatcherism and social democratic paternalism. Deep cuts in social spending sit alongside a commitment to state support for high technology in-dustries, notably aerospace and nuclear power.

The former includes sweeping aside the legacy of Soviet welfare by slashing the huge sums spent on subsidising housing and communal services. This should be replaced by targeted payments, aimed only at the genuinely needy, he said. He also wants to end cross-subsidising of domestic gas and power, and passenger transport by big industry. Tariffs must cover the real costs," said the minister, pointing out that households pay about 10-15 per cent of the real costs of electrical power.

The overall thrust of the plan is to cut the level of "unbearable" state spending which is the same proportion of the GDP - about 45 per cent - as the hugely more prosperous Germany. Although it would. Mr Yasin conceded, be an "extremely difficult" programme, it would set Russia on course for 2 per cent growth this year, ris-

ing to 5 per cent by 2000. It is, of course, only a plan. There are many unpredictable factors, from the future of Mr Yeltsin to the overall climate for





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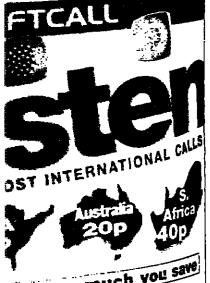
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ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales visits the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies, Cambridge. The Princess Royal, Patron, Sense – the National Deathlind and Rubella Association, visits the Toy Library Crèche Session at the Woodside Family Centre, Kingswood, Gioucesterabire; as Patron, the National Association of Chizzas Advice Bureaux, opens the Bath and District Crimens Advice Bureaux, Bath, Somerset; and as Commandant in Chief, St. John Ambulance and Nursing Cadeta, attends an Opening Ceremony and Dedication of the new Training and Resource Centre and Ambulance Station, the Hany Crook Centre, Bedminster, Bristol. The Duke of Gloacester opens the Ethibidon "Paper Palaces", Architectural Works from the Collections of Cambridge University Library, at the Fitzwilliam Maseum, Cambridge. ge enge segen gryneneri in the UK US NEW PER SECOND BILLING Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Ouera's Life Guard at Recus Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Backbooksus Paleace, 11 20cm in and many life of the Cavalry Regiments of the Cavalry Mounted Regiments of the Cavalry Mou CALL US NOW am Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

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THE INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 1997

## gazette/obituaries

## **Col Tom** Parker

When Elvis Presley met Colonel Tom Parker in a Memphis restaurant in 1955, it was the start of a relationship that would transform their lives and see the creation of a 20thcentury cultural phenomenon. Parker, the one-time carnival

huckster and country music promoter, would become almost as famous and revered as his protégé, the teenage hillbilly who became the King of Rock' n'Roll. For good or ill he would oversee the creation of the Presley legend and guide the singer and actor's career through its many stages of birth, renewal and decline, until Elvis's death in 1977.

It was Parker who groomed the teenage rebel for a new role as the acceptable face of American showbiz. He oversaw the transformation from "Elvis the Pelvis" to the Hollywood star of countless lightweight movies. Gradually it came to be perceived that perhaps the Colonel was too protective and was the root cause of the erosion of Presley's talents and stature.

But this was only in the eyes of critics and those fans - like John Lennon - who saw Elvis as crucial to the development of le vrai rock'n roll. Millions of less demanding Elvis fans around the world queued up to see the movies like GI Blues (1960) and Viva Las Vegas (1964) and continued to swoon at his feet, white spangled jumpsuit and all.

But Col Thomas Andrew Parker - the all-American father figure - wasn't the first to discover Elvis. He wasn't a colonel and he wasn't even born in America. His origins were steeped in mystery.

He always said he was born in West Virginia, but it was revealed in the Sixties (by a Dutch researcher and later explored in Ehis, 1981, Albert Goldman's hard-hitting biography) that he was born Andreas Cornelius Van Kuijk in Breda, Holland in 1909, the fifth of a family of nine children. His somewhat tyrannical father Adam ran a livery stable, and as a child Andreas loved looking after the horses. Fascinated by the circus, he'd drive around town on a cart promoting the local show and tried to see every performance.

His father died when Andreas was 16 and he went to live with an uncle who was a ship's captain. Under his auspices he sailed for New York and returned to Holland in 1927, bringing gifts for his mother but refusing to reveal what he'd been doing in the States, He returned to America for good in May 1929 and his family in Holland never heard from him again until they saw his photo-

graph in a magazine in 1961. Andreas had learned to speak English as he explored the States, hitching rides on railroad cars. After a stint as a salesman he joined the US army in 1930 and served with the coastal artillery at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. It has been suggested he assumed his new name from a Captain Thomas Parker he met in the service.

Given his love of the circus it was natural he gravitated to the American version, and he began working for the Royal American Shows, a touring carnival which included everything from roller-coaster rides to animal acts and freak shows. He stayed for some ten years, learning everything there was to know about showbusiness bunkum and the art of publicity and promotion.

Tales of his stunts and exploits have been gleefully recounted like that of Col Parker and His Amazing Dancing Chickens. Live animals were regarded as tax exempt as they needed feeding. A pair of chickens were kept idle at the side of the stage, until Parker decided one night to recruit them into an act. He concealed a hot plate under their feet and set them to work - dancing animatedly to the tune of "Turkey in the Straw".

In 1932, while working with the carnival in Tampa, Florida, he met and married Marie Ross who became his wife and bookkeeper. During the Second World War he was deferred military service and in 1940 took a temporary job as Tampa's town dog catcher, after the failure of a projected Pony Circus. He soon returned to showbusiness, becoming manager of the country singers Eddie Arnold and Hank Snow who benefited from his energy and enterprise



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It was through his country music connections that Parker was bestowed his honorary title "Colonel" in 1948 by the Governor of Louisiana. He also managed the pop singer Gene Austin who had a big hit with "My Blue Heaven". Parker and Hank Snow opened a booking agency in Nashville in the Fifties which was when the Colonel first heard about Elvis Presley.

Oscar Davies, a fellow promoter who had heard Presky on radio and seen him perform "live", recommended that Parker should see the boy in action. At the time he was being managed by Bob Neal and produced by Sam Phillips at Sun Studios. At their first meeting at the Memphis resturant, Parker simply said to Elvis: "Oscar tells me you're sensational. I'm going to see if I can book you on one of

Parker booked Elvis on a ten-

throughout the 1940s and 1950s. day tour and was amazed at the worse a situation than many anreaction he got particularly from screaming young girl fans. Presley's first big tour, which began in May 1955, was supporting Hank Snow. Having pursued Elvis with great determination and fending off competition from others with an interest in him, Parker finally signed Presley to a management contract on 15 August 1955. It was believed that he took 25 per cent of Presley's earnings during the first years of their asso-

ciation and later up to 50 per cent. In a famous clause to his first agreement with Presley, a paragraph was inserted which stated: As a special concession to Col Parket Elvis Preslev is to play 100 personal appearances within one year for the special sum of \$200 - including his

As was later pointed out this meant Elvis would have to play a large number of concerts at reduced rates. It was perhaps no

other rock star would find him or herself. But Parker had shown a ruthlessness in his business methods which did not always endear him to others, although it helped ensure that Presley was signed to a lucrative contract with RCA, and Parker booked him on to early appearances of the Ed Sullivan Show on television that made him a star.

With Presley himself he seemed to offer kindly, even fatherly advice, but he showed a hint of iron discipline. Many feared Parker and his powers and suggested that Elvis was in awe of him. Apart from his love of a fast buck. Parker's most serious deficiencies were held to be a lust for gambling, smoking cigars and over-eating.

Yet he conducted himself well in most of his business affairs, did not drink or take drugs, and was a loval husband and father to his stepson.

Throughout the years when Elvis was touring, making movies or later performing his Las Vegas cabaret shows, Parker remained at the helm, keeping tabs on everything from merchandising to the fan clubs. After Elvis's drug-related

death in 1977, Parker virtually retired and only occasionally emerged to defend his role as Presley's mentor. He spent his last years walking with a cane to the gaming tables of Las Vegas where he lived from the 1980s onwards. He was often asked to write his own book about Elvis, but replied: "You know what they want - dirt. But I'm not a dirt farmer."

Chris Welch

Andreas Cornelius Van Kuijk ("Colonel Tom Parker"), manager and promoter: born Breda, Holland 26 June 1909; twice married; died Las Vegas 21 January

## **James Dickey**

James Dickey was the Hemingway of the American poetry

A former lighter pilot and star athlete, Dickey became fa-mous for his machismo-ridden novel Deliverance; his celebrity was further enhanced by the success of the subsequent film, but his best work was in his poetry. Here, too, he explored the conflict between man and na-ture which, when caricatured, made Deliverance such a success, but he also brought a lyric sense and beautifully attuned ear not found in the crude commercialism of his novel. Though personal, his poems avoided the confessional preoccupations of so many of his peers; though capable of technical variety, they were never remotely stylised or, for that

matter, epicene. Dickey was a Southerner, raised in Atlanta chiefly by his grandmother because of an invalid mother. He also spent much of his childhood with his father's relatives in rural northeast Georgia, and this acquaintance with Southern country life provided material for many of his poems, as well as for the dramatic encounters of Deliverance. As a boy Dickey gave little indication of the literary talents that would emerge in his thirties, preferring athletic to aesthetic pursuits in his teenage years.

Trained as a pilot in the US Army's Air Force, he flew over 100 missions in the Second World War, and was recalled to active duty in Korea. His war experiences figured prominently in his poems, but only a chance receipt of an anthology of verse while he was stationed on Okinawa triggered his own first attempts at writing. His education interrupted

by the war, Dickey none the less received a BA and an MA from Vanderbilt University, then taught for two years as an instructor of English at Rice University, in Texas, in the early 1950s. He left teaching and worked full-time in advertising for six years, an experience that distinguished him from most of his poetry-writing colleagues, who were busy constituting the first generation of American writers to make their living through a succession of "creative writing" teaching posts. Successful at business. Dickey put his personal energies into his poems, and when his first book, Into the Stone, appeared in 1960 quit advertising. Thereafter he too took a succession of teaching jobs, settling permanently at the University of Southern Carolina in

Dickey's early poems were formal, technically accomplished, influenced as much by European models (he had travelled widely as a Guggenheim and Sewanee fellow) as by his native Georgian roots. Already, however, the lyric ear is deft, and there is no hesitancy in exploring the most intense emotions, as in his evocation of his brother, dead before Dickey himself was born:

With all my heart, I close The blue, timeless eye of my mind. Wind springs, as my dead brother smiles

And touches the tree at the root.

In these early poems, the feel-ings are heartfelt, but the voice remains constrained by its obeisance to conventional forms the settings and descriptions remain abstract and without locale, and the diction of depicted nature is generic (with repeated use of common nouns such as "stone", "water", or "wind") rather than specific.

With Helmets (1964) and Buckdancer's Choice, which won the National Book Award in 1965, all changes: a South of rattlesnakes, kudzu, and teenage trysts in abandoned cars now plays centre-stage, along with poems vividly recalling his experiences of comsurface homogeneity of postwar America make the work almost unprecedentedly raw, as in Dickey's fear of a girlfriend's angry father:

Who would change, in the squalling Her back's pale skin with a strop. Then lay for me

In a bootlegger's roasting car with a string-triggered 12-gauge shotgun To blast the brenth from the air.

Interspersed with the lyrics are longer narrative poems, with rambling Hopkins-like rhythms of no relation to the light forms of his early work. The effect of these poems was immense, strengthened by Dickey's own critical campaigning, waged chiefly on his own behalf.

Yet, in these narrative poems especially, the governing conceits can teeter on the preposterous, as in the famous "Falling", a dramatic account of a stewardess's fall trom an airplane, six miles up. The sexuality of her gradual fall through the sky draws on every stereotype of the nubile flight attendant, and at times the language is sim-ply absurd: as her clothes fall off in the slipstream, Dickey comments that she is "no longer monobuttocked". Even when teetering on the grotesquely cliched, however, the language can compel, as when Dickey speaks of an imminent extinction that "slumbers in corn tassels thickly / and breathes like

rich farmers counting". The technical oddness of his narratives aside, Dickey's chief weakness in these longer poems lies in his inability to penetrate the characters he invents. His eye for revealing detail inevitably reflects more in showy fashion on the unspoken "I" of the author than on the people he describes at length. This is especially true of Deliverance, a reasonably well-recounted pot-



Photograph: Philip Gould / Corbis

boiler of urban men on a river trip thrown into primitive con-flict with the wilds and with

Appalachian throwbacks.
Well before this book's appearance in 1970, Dickey was famous - or famous as an unusual fish could be in the small pond of American poetry. But the novel and the film it spawned (the latter starring Burt Reynolds) brought Dickey true national celebrity, highlighted by his choice two decades later as the poet who read at President Clinton's inaugural in

Unsurprisingly, his poetry suffered; even the fictional follow-ups to Deliverance, the novels. *Almilam* (1987) and *To the* White Sea (1993), seemed drab by comparison to the shock value of their predecessor. Sadly, although Deliverance had made Dickey America's most famous living poet, it had served to diminish his considerable and well-deserved reputation as a poet. Curiously, time may well deliver him from him from this celebrity and return us to his best work, his poems.

**Andrew Rosenheim** 

James Dickey, poet and novelist: born Atlanta 2 February 1923; married 1948 Maxine Syerson (died 1976: two sons), 1976 Deborah Dodson (one daughter; marriage dissolved); died Columbia, South Carolina 19

## Dennis Main Wilson

Dennis Main Wilson was an enthusiast; one of the breed of producers who emerged, or rather exploded, into the BBC after the

Second World War. His army career centred around his ability to speak German and by the end of the war he was deeply involved in the post-Nazi restructuring of Ger-man radio. On demobilisation he rejoined the BBC (where he had worked before call-up) in the

burgeoning variety department. Main Wilson and radio were made for each other. He had a great imagination and his insight was phenomenal. His skill as a talent-spotter was more highly tuned than any of his contemporaries and it was Main Wilson, looking for a character actor to join the cast of Han-cock's Half Hour, who spotted

Kenneth Williams, then playing the Dauphin in Shaw's St Joan. Hancock's Half Hour was atguably the best comedy series of its day and Main Wilson first came in contact with that programme's writers, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson, in 1951, at the beginning of their careers. He was brought in to salvage a series they were working on called Happy Go Lucky, and promoted them from "five bob a joke" men to be the show's principal writ-ers. It started a friendship and professional relationship that

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

was to bear fruit in 1954 with Hancock's Half Hour. Nineteen fifty-one was a

bumper year for radio and for Main Wilson too, as on 28 May The Goon Show was born. It was originally called Crazy People and, with Spike Milligan, Michael Bentine, Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers starring, it was hair-raising stuff at that time.

If Main Wilson had a flaw in his character it was that he empathised with everyone with whom he worked. With the Crazy People crowd he became as eccentric as his cast, so much so that in the third series he was replaced by the sober, disciplined producer Peter Eton. Main Wilson's other credits

at this time included Pertwee's

Progress, starring Jon Pertwee, and including in its cast another of Main Wilson's discoveries, Barry Took. In those days I was a sort of second division Kenneth Williams and this was my first series. He and I became friends and came together again in television some years later when he produced the awardwinning series Marty (1968), starring Marty Feldman and written by Marty and me, and a one-off which celebrated the 10th anniversary of Private Eye, called Private Eye TV.

Main Wilson is also credited

The engagement is amounced be-tween Alexander, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Gray, of Pinner, Mid-

Mr and Mrs Harold Bell, of Cook-

Mr John Adams, composer, 50;

Dame Mary Arden, High Court judge, 50; Mr David Colvin, ambas-

sador to Belgium, 55; Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, 98; Mrs

Gillian duCharme, Headmistress,

Benenden School, 59; Air Marshal

Sir Barry Duxbury, director and

chief executive, Society of British

Aerospace Companies, 63; Sir John

Grenside, chartered accountant, 76;

Brigadier Donald Hardie, Lord-

Lieutenant, Strathclyde Region (Dumbarton), 61: Mr Bill Hayden,

former Governor-General of Aus-

tralia, 64; Mr Thomas Hudson, for-

mer chairman, ICL Ltd, 82; Sir

James Lighthili, former Provost of

University College, London, 73; Miss Jeanne Moreau, actress, 69; Miss

Christine Nicholls, former editor, Dic-

tionary of National Biography Sup-plements, 54: Mr Edward Rowlands

MP 57: Sir Kenneth Scott, former

dlesex, and Diane, eldest daug

stown, County Tyrone.

Birthdays

Forthcoming

marriages Dr A. W. Gray and Dr D. D. Bell

Tony Slattery, Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry and Hugh

Among his many successes as a producer was The Rag Trade, hich starred Peter Jones, Reg Varney, Miriam Karlin and Sheila Hancock, but his most important contribution to the medium was undoubtedly Till Death Us Do Part. The combination of Main Wilson, Johnny Speight and Warren Mitchell turned out to be a world beater and a triumph of enthusiasm and daring.

Sometimes Main Wilson's enthusiasm could be a little overwhelming. I think of him as the kind of man who, if you asked him the time, would say, "Ah, it's interesting you should ask me that because I've just been talking to the man whose grandfather built Big Ben", and would then proceed to describe in detail the man, the clock, the history of parliamentary democracy, and in the process would forget what you'd asked him in the first place.

There was a time when it was thought to be a good idea to follow the Nine O'Clock News with a 10-minute fictionalised discussion of the day's events. Main Wilson booked Johnny Speight and Eric Sykes to apwith helping the careers of the pear on the pilot programme.

Queen, 66; Lord Sutherland, a

Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 65; Mrs Joan Walley MP, 48; Mr Brian Weight, former chief

Births: Stendhal (Henri-Marie

Beyle), novelist, 1783; Edouard

Manet, painter, 1832. Deaths: William Baffin, explorer, 1622; Anna Pavlova, ballerina, 1931; Paul Bustill

Robeson, actor and singer, 1976. On this day: the Royal Exchange, Lon-don, was opened by Queen Elizabeth

L, 1571; Fletcher Christian and the

Bounty mutineers landed on Pit-cairn Island, 1790; the proceedings

of the House of Lords were televised

for the first time, 1985. Today is the

Feast Day of St Asclas, St Bernard

of Vienne, Saints Clement and

Agathangelus, St Emerentiana, St

National Gallery: Alistair Smith,

"Paintings from Copenhagen (iv): two

Tate Gallery: Sarah Lucas talks

British Museum: Hilary Williams

"Blenheim, Marlborough House, and a pair of ice buckets", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery, Jane Des-

pictures by Eckersberg", Ipm.

about her work, 6.30pm.

Deputy Private Secretary to the marais, "Anbrey Beardsley", 1.10pm.

St Lufthildis and St Maimbod.

ephonsus, St John the Almsgiver

constable, Dorset, 61

Anniversaries

Cambridge Footlights group of Johnny sports a somewhat aggressive stammer, Eric suffers from deafness. Hearing about the show a wit in the har at Television Centre remarked, "Dennis has done the ultimate. He's got a man who can't speak talking to a man who can't hear."

His gift for talent-spotting never deserted him. Seeing a production exercise written by Ian la Frenais and Dick Clement, Main Wilson insisted that this had tremendous potential and in spite of tough opposition got his way and so The Likely Lads emerged. Similarly, when having read some work written by a shy young scene shifter at Television Centre he came to the conclusion that here was a star in the making. The young man was John Sullivan and one of his many creations, Only Fools and Horses, became a national institution.

Dennis Main Wilson could be a nuisance, even - dare I say it - boring at times but his flair, joie de vivre, insight, and above all his energy, will be remembered and cherished by all who knew this remarkable man.

Dennis Main Wilson, television producer: born London 1 May 1924; married 1955 Sylvia Harkin (one son, one daughter); died Guildford 20 January 1997.



Crazy people: Main Wilson (on the floor) with the Goons, left to right, Michael Bentine, Harry Secombe, Peter Sellers and Spike bat. Violence, sex, and a clash Miligan. Their first show went out in May 1951 Photograph: BBC of the Confederate past with the

#### Compensation for solicitor's mortgage fraud refused LAW REPORT

23 January 1997

lender obtains an effective security

Mortgage Express Ltd, and ex parte Alliance & Leicester Building Society; Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Mummery, Sir Brian Neill) 17 December 1996

The fact that a solicitor's client had lost money because of the solicitor's dishonesty did not of itself entitle the client to be compensated from the Law Society's compensation fund, and if the client's loss was partly caused by other factors, such as a negligent or dishonest valuation or a fall in property prices, then the Law Society was entitled to

refuse compensation.

The Court of Appeal allowed the Law Society's appeal against the decision of Mr Justice Ognall, on 30 July 1996, who granted an application for judicial review to quash its refusal to meet five claims by Mortgage Express Ltd for payments out of the Law Society's compensation fund under section 36 of the Solicitors Act 1974. were financing was a bona fide

Genevra Caws QC and Rabinder Singh (Bindman & Partners) for the Law Society; Nicholas Patten QC and Timothy Harry (Lightfoots) for

the claims arose out of transactions in which MXL had made a loan on the security of real property. In each case a disboth MXL and the borrower. MXL relied on a professional valuation which substantially overvalued the property. The purchase being financed at the valuation price had been immediately preceded by anoth-

the true value. In each case the solicitor

Sir Thomas Bingham LCJ said of the overvaluation and an

intervening decline in properhonest solicitor had acted for ty prices. Since the solicitor had been dishonest, and but for his dishonesty MXL would not have made the advances, the Law Society concluded that it had a discretion under section 36(2)(a) of the 1974 Act to make a grant. But it went on to say, in its deer back-to-back sale and purchase transaction at a sigcision letter of 6 June 1995, that: whilst [MXL] made an advance of nificantly lower figure, closer to more than the property was worth, the function of the solicitor in acting for a commercial lender is usu-ally to ensure that the commercial

dishonestly caused MXL to believe that the transaction they transaction at a genuine price, The letter concluded:

and paid out of the funds prothis was not a case in which a solicthis was not a case in which a sone-itor had personally misappropriated money: the mortgage had been com-pleted and [MXI's] security had been perfected. That the security proved to be inadequate was due to the poor valuation and/or to the fall in property prices. Consequently, whilst the solicitor's dishonesty was a cause of the loss, ... it was prin-cipally suffered in consequence of the vided by MXL without authority and in breach of fiduciary duty. MXL obtained their mortgage security, but when the borrower defaulted and MXL repossessed the property they suffered loss, partly because

> in the property market, The judge held that the Law Society misdirected itself in law by regarding the duty of a solicitor in a transaction of this kind as being limited to ob-taining effective security for

the mortgage lender. Their Lordships disagreed. The Law Society clearly accepted that the solicitor's dishonesty was in law a cause of MXL's loss. To say that the func- prices or both. tion of the solicitor in acting for a commercial lender was

cipally suffered in consequence of the overvaluation and the subsequent fall

lander obtained effective security for its loan was not to say the solicitor had no other function, and there was no reason to doubt that this was ordinarily the solicitor's main function.

usually to ensure that the

The Law Society had always made it clear that the fund was first and foremost a source from which to replace money taken by dishonest solicitors for their own benefit. Their Lordships did not regard that as an unreasonable priority.

MXL had failed to show that the Law Society acted unlawfully in adopting and applying a policy which in effect disallowed claims where the lender's loss derived not from the failure to obtain security but from the inadequacy of the security when the lender came to realise it, whether such inadequacy was the result of overvaluation or decline in property

Paul Magrath, Barrister

# 2 FREE BOTTLES OF WINE.





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Collect tokens from The Independent and Independent on Sunday. Offer starts Saturday, 25th January. Wine supplied by Bordeaux Direct with a delivery charge of £2.50. Over 18's only.



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A CARPYTON

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## Heseltine finds that the frontier has moved

have long been the natural party of British business. They aren't allowed the Conservatives to lodge the any longer - which is why Mr Heseltine, a formidable operator, is guilty not just of tactical error but a failure of political imagination all the more remarkable in someone whose own past views on UK plc and government intervention branded him definitely not "one of us". The Tories cannot see that history has moved on. It is a sign of genuine national progress that Labour lambs can sit down with business lions and that British business leaders are at last prepared to think about party allegiance for themselves and forswear that knee-jerk tribalism that too often in the past made the Institute of Directors, let alone City dining rooms, into outstations of

Conservative Central Office. Traditionally business did veer towards the partisan right. The City is dominant, and English bankers have, at least since the middle of the last century. associated themselves with a reactionary stance in politics. For too many of them, Montagu Norman is still a patron saint. British business's conservatism has of course also been conditioned by the rhetorical commitment of Labour to ending the capitalist system. In practice Labour governments have got on famously with individual business leaders, from Beaverbrook (a Cabinet colleague of Attlee and Bevin in the

ichael Heseltine's chagrin is understandable. The Tories industrialist chums. But the madness of Labour's turn to the left in the Eighties impression that business support for Labour was akin to the proverbial turkey voting for the festive season.

But only blind prejudice would deny that Tony Blair has sloughed much of Labour's historical skin. Meanwhile, out in the private economy, company directors (a hugely diverse bunch, which no amount of Institute of Directors' collectivism can amalgamate into a single voice) nowadays make pragmatic judgements about the parties. It is probably true that the "social consciousness" of members of Germany's Mittelstand is higher, and that Italy's small and medium enterprises are much more diverse in political allegiance, but evidence is growing that Britain's "business community" cannot be locked up in the blue column. Most businessmen probably prefer the idea of a Conservative government. But their support should not be taken for granted. Some businessmen have had fruitful dealings with Labour local authorities: others have enough political awareness to register the mighty presentational changes wrought by the Blairites. Either way they are quite capable of calling the shots on their own and concluding that it may even be advantageous to their cash flow to favour a party other than the



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This was the kernel of Michael Heseltine's mistake: to lambast the business members of the Institute of Public Policy Research's commission as if they were capable of being turned into party dupes. His attitude is redolent of an oldfashioned statism - business people are naifs, children in matters of policy and politics who need the tutelage of a professional. Michael Heseltine likes it to be remembered that he made a lot of money as a publisher. True, but he has now been a professional Tory politician for far too many years, and his rant will rightly have been found offensive by many practising money-makers, who

think they can make up their own minds

about which party they feel loyal to. Those who consider the distribution of economic power within Britain's private sector peculiar may say that the historical connection between directors, Rotary Clubs, chambers of trade and local Tory associations is fixed. For those who like to model things this way capitalists - whether Anglo-Saxon or Rhenish - will tend to support the party of property and disdain the party of high taxation. But must the party of the left be an enemy of property or the party of high income tax? That certainly was not the guise adopted by Shadow Chancellor Brown on Monday. Look meanwhile at the other great example of Anglo-Saxon capitalism - the United States - and see that there need be no fixed relationship between those who run companies and make profits, and the party of the right. Both American parties are pro-business.

The Labour Party is not the Democratic Party - yet. Messrs Blair and Brown have - yet - to be tested in the crucible of office, fending off party demands while fiscal contingencies butble mercilessly away. Down in certain constituencies the red flag flutters and attitudes towards profit-taking and enterprise are still antediluvian. A Blair government will have to master the trick of recognising the justice of employees' claims while continuing to distance itself from Labour's historical partnership with the trade unions. Labour's business education is incomplete.

But that is why Sir Christopher Harding, Robert Ayling et al must turn on their accusers and say: it is now that Labour's modernisers need all the help they can get, not in some hole-in-thecorner fashion, but up front. It is in the interests of British firms individually and British business collectively that political life should move away from the spite and confrontation epitomised by Michael Heseltine's characterisation of a probusiness and anti-business divide. When both parties are pro-business, it will be the quality of their policies that matters

- welfare into work, schooling, skill training, regional economic advance, research, all those areas of "deep investment" for which the state alone possesses the resources and time horizon. Thatcherism redrew the economic boundary: Labour accepts that. It is time to step up exchanges along that new frontier, which is why the Tory response to the IPPR commission will dismay perceptive business people as they look forward to political change with equanimity, if not outright enthusiasm.

#### **HM Prison Ship** Britannia

Here's a little reader competition. There's no prize, except the satisfaction of having bent your mind to a serious matter of policy. It is this. Can you think of a more purposeful way of spending the millions Michael Portillo wants to shell out of your pocket on a new Royal Yacht? To get you started ... How about turning the present one into a prison ship? Or holding a continuous party on it in the middle of the Thames, starting on 31 December 1999 and finishing with a big bang a year later? If you can't think of anything more useful, then presumably we'll have to accept that buying a new Royal Yacht is the best idea the Government has had this week.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Police bugs: let local judges decide

Labour peers chose to ignore the advice of their own front bench on Monday evening and decided to vote for the Liberal Democrat as for their own ("Howard attacks

require chief officers of police to receive the prior authorisation of a circuit judge before they cause entry to be made into people's homes and offices for the purpose

The Labour amendment was also passed with Liberal-Democrat support but it is far less satisfactory. Labour proposes that already given by a chief constable shall not take effect without the approval of a commissioner appointed by the Prime Minister. It envisages that there should be three commissioners for the whole of England and Wales, who shall be High Court judges or above. Prior approval is not required under the Labour amendment where it is not "reasonably practicable".

Labour should not make Court bench had ever met their clients in the comfort of the prison responsibilities of prosecuting counsel within 20 years of their appointment. The flower of commercial and civil practitioners do adapt surprisingly quickly to the conduct of criminal trials as High Court judges, but the Old Bailey is

The great wealth of experience of that court, but of all Crown courts throughout the country. They live in the community where they sit as judges. They know the temper of the people, and have experience of their police forces.

the interests of the public, whose protection is their immediate concern, and those of the accused individual before them.

officers seeking an authorisation under the proposed Act. Toughened by practical experience, they are not noted to be soft on crime or criminals. The excuse that it is not "reasonably practicable" to go to London will frequently be made - it is foolish to suggest that High Court on an application for approval than local judges on the spot.

The Labour front bench should

swallow their pride: their recent U-turn on this issue was made so hastily that they sought to save face with a hurried solution of their own. Failure to follow the Liberal Democrat lead in its entirety has produced a less practical and sensible response. Lord THOMAS OF GRESFORD OC House of Lords

#### Don't bank on it

Sir: The Royal Bank of Scotland proposes to introduce "virtual" banking (report, 21 January). Does this mean we can relish the prospect of virtual bank charges as well? RICHARD SANDERS Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire

# Sir: How welcome it was that 44

amendment to the Police Bill, as well bugging 'shambles' ", 21 January). Liberal Democrat peers seek to

of planting bugs.

obeisance to the judicial hierarchy. I would be surprised if a quarter of the distinguished and emment brother- and sisterhood of the High cell, or had dealt hands-on with the not their natural home.

of the criminal law and its practice resides in the circuit judges not just

Every day, they fulfil their role in holding the balance fairly between

Circuit judges are readily accessible at all times to police judges in London can make a betterinformed, fairer or quicker judgment

#### Pay Eurotaxes or lose jobs

Ashford, Kent

Sir: After Jack O'Sullivan's

friendly qualities too. A safe

followed by cups of tea and a few hours' rest tucked up in our own

phone to announce the news.

bed together, before getting on the

I was immediately on hand for

nappy-changing and winding duty, while my wife could concentrate on

breast-feeding and recuperating. I

felt I was right in on the action and

vet not "in the way" (the common

experience of fathers in hospital).

others. I thoroughly recommend it! Dr MATTHEW DYER

Last month we had our third

child - born at home, like the

Sir: No one could accuse the Adam Smith Institute of a devotion to logic. Their letter (18 January) condemns a common European currency on the grounds that some countries have the need to devalue from time to time, in order to compete and export their unemployment.

In the absence of this option, they will need assistance from other member states, funds derived

Home birth from taxation. In practice, all this means is that the more competitive favours fathers areas of the Union have the option of paying a tax or losing their jobs. HOWARD CHENEY

sensitive article about fathers and the birth of their children (21 Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire January), might I recommend "home birth" as an alternative? Sir: What is The Independent doing blaring out headlines like "Now It was my wife (a registered Britain faces single European tax midwife) who first pursued the system" (16 January)? This home route as a medically safe and mother/child-friendly alternative. language caters to a paranoid, Eurosceptic fantasy according to which EU proposals are a series of After the birth of our first child I became convinced of its fatherschemes dreamed up by foreigners to impose on Britain. delivery in the early hours was

In fact, any EU state might have something to gain from a development of this kind. EU countries are already suffering from their lack of co-ordination over taxation, which, in a context of capital mobility, weakens their power to tax revenues and profits effectively. The result has been a forced drift towards taxes on employment and sales. Dr NOEL PARKER Lecturer in European Politics University of Surrey, Guildford

#### Our John

Sir: As an expatriate Gibraltarian, I take exception to your headline describing John Galliano as "The Englishman who stormed Paris" (21 January). He is the most famous expatriate Gibraltarian in the world. born in Gibraltar of a Gibraltarian father and Spanish mother. MICHAEL BRUFAL DE MELGAREJO Fleet, Hampshire

#### Books vs the Internet

Sir: Nick Edmunds (Network, 20 January) does not mention when his time of 15 seconds to discover the population of Zambia using the Internet search engine Alta Vista started - presumably all switched

on and fingers on the keyboard. Reading this at the breakfast table I felt challenged, looked at my watch, got up, went across to a small number of reference books, chose The Universal Almanac, 1997, consulted the index, found page 531 and was informed that the population of Zambia was 9.4 million for 1995, returned the book to the shelf, sat down. Which took

45 seconds. The printed page still has a lot going for it. HARRY MACKLEY Newcastle upon Tyne

#### Books vs Eng Lit snobbery

Sir: Colin Hughes's assertion that the Waterstone's top 100 books list was what he would expect to find on an "averagely middle-class shelf in a not-very-bookish home" pushes literary snobbery to its imits. The list includes some of the most original, thought-provoking and important books of our century such as To Kill a Mockingbird and Animal Farm.

We should be praising the new accessibility of the GCSE syllabuses

he deplores. Being in my midtwenties, I am of the generation which studied those novels and 1 remember the shocked appreciation of 16-year-olds who would not normally have delved into anything more taxing than NME or the back

pages of the tabloids. Most members of the literary community seem prone to decry the failure of the populace to read and appreciate great literature, but then turn their backs on a piece of work if it manages to achieve popular acclaim.

Do we want people to read? If we can encourage 16-year-olds to read *Animal Farm* – and even like it that should be praised, not scorned. PAULSMITH

#### You won't stamp out ecstasy

Sir: "Stop the pushers poisoning our children," said Michael Howard at the Conservative Party conference. The Public Entertainments Licensing (Drugs Misuse) Bill, published by Barry Legg MP, aims to do just that.

The fact is that the Government will not succeed in eradicating the consumption of and dealing in ecstasy. If people want to take ecstasy and dance all night, they will. If people want to sell ecstasy and make lots of money, they will. It is impossible to stamp out drugs. However, it is possible to create a safer environment with the

minimum of risk for those who feel inclined to take ecstasy. Politicians are stupidly quick to reject "harm reduction" measures - free cold water in clubs, no overcrowding. good ventilation, chill-out areas and tablet testing. Introduce these and the risks will be reduced considerably. VICKY MILES

(aged 16) Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire

#### Trust overcame men's differences

Sir: I was chairman of the meeting described in Neil Lyndon's article "Man to man" (20 January). Mr Lyndon is correct to point to the ideological divisions within the group - the libertarians is the moralists, to name but one - but that is the very reason why the meeting was significant and why I regarded it as a success.

Actions by men to protect the legitimate interests of themselves and their children have, in the past, tended to be weak and fragmented and attempts to forge sustained alliances have tended to fail through ideological divides. This was why I deliberately chose to avoid discussion of ideology, which Mr Lyndon saw as a deficiency. This was a large meeting of seasoned activists from many disparate groups and the fact that we managed to develop a cooperative campaigning strategy in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect without a single serious dispute forming was, to my mind, quite an achievement. Dr IOHN CAMPION

Director, The Cheltenham Group Midhurst, West Sussex

#### Build a clock to mark 2000

Sir: J W Dixon's suggestion (letter, 20 January) that cities, towns and villages should erect millennium clocks gives me an idea. What we should do is have a Grand Millennium Clock Competition, in which anybody can compete to build interesting clocks designed for use in public places.

Competing clocks would form the Grand Millennium Clock Exhibition in 1999. At the closing ceremony, prizewinners would be selected, and TV cameras would record the clocks passing midnight. After this there would be a Grand Millennium Clock Auction. ALAN ROBINSON

Sir: Why bother celebrating the Haddenham, Cambridgeshire

#### Palace drawings cost student dear

Sir: I am a foreign student doing an MA in fine art. During the Christmas holiday, I spent a few days in London visiting museums and galleries. I am impressed by the collections, the professionalism and the facilities (recorded hearing aids) in the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and the Tate. Best of all is that they have free admission.

On the last day I went to Buckingham Palace to see Da Vinci drawings. To my astonishment, I

had to pay £3.50. The collection came from Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel in 1630. During the civil war he left the country. In 1690 the collection appeared in Kensington Palace. probably presented to the monarch as a civil war trophy.

To pay £3.50 to see such a mysteriously acquired collection, which belongs to one of the richest women in the world, is appalling. TAN KWANK-LIANG

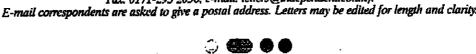
Sir: You correctly note that business support of capital projects in the arts has suffered a major drop from £13.9m to £5.3m, which could indicate a problem for Lottery projects. ("Lottery Funding Threat". 18 January). However, the article implies that this figure covers all business

sponsorship of the arts. In truth, the arts sponsorship market is in an extremely bealthy position, with overall business support of the arts standing at £79.8m – dipping only slightly from the previous year's record high. **COLINTWEEDY** Director General The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts London SE1

#### Crunchy sprouts

Sir: Since when were sprouts classed as a soft vegetable (report, 22 January)? In my home they crunch when gently steamed for 5-6 minutes, but I wouldn't touch the frozen ones that collapse to mush.

Maybe if more people took the time to select young, fresh vegetables and learned to cook them properly, children wouldn't turn their nose up - my three- and four-year-olds don't! Making everything taste like packets of crisps is not the answer: invest in a decent cook-book instead. KAREN ILLINGWORTH Munchester



Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

A Greek Cypriot climbs the Turkish flagpole in the buffer zone. Seconds later, he was shot dead by Turkish forces Reuters

Europe's coming war over Cyprus

**TURKEY ON THE GREEKS** 

We strongly hope that Greece and southern

Cyprus will give up these intolerable provoca-

Greeks know our nation very well ... They saw

the results of their efforts in 1922 and 1974.

6 Greece and the Greek Cypriot administra-

tion have based their policies against Turkey

on a fanatic and hostile mentality, which can

6If they step on our feet, we in turn will step

be described as an incurable illness. 9

Turhan Tayan, Turkish Defence Minister

General Ismail Hakki Karadayi,

**Chief of Turkish General Staff** 

on both their feet. 9

tions and come to their senses, because the

Necmettin Erbakan, Turkish Prime Minister

After 22 years of diplomatic stalemate, the world's most densely militarised confrontation zone may be about to explode, writes Tony Barber

of stop-start talks on ending the division of Cyprus have pro-

Now the island's internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government wants the Euroand open talks on making Cyprus a full EU member. Germany and other countries argue that the EU would be mad to absorb a dispute as bitter and complicated as that in Cyprus.

Just as EU foreign ministers sit down over lunch in Brussels to thrash out what to do, word ade the island. arrives that four Greek Cypriots have been killed along the Green Line dividing govern- angry at lukewarm EU sup-

ment-held southern Cyprus from the Turkish-occupied north. The government, backed by Greece, retaliates by vowing to take delivery within a week of a batch of Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles ordered in January 1997.

As a Russian-Greek naval convoy carrying the warheads pean Union to keep its promise and launchers edges towards the eastern Mediterranean, the Turkish armed forces swing into action. Troop reinforcements pour into northern Cyprus. Planes raid the Greekbuilt missile base near Paphos in south-western Cyprus. The Turkish navy prepares to block-

> Greece declares Turkey's actions a cause for war and,

port, invokes the secret defence clause of a recently signed treaty with Russia. Fighting on Cyprus spreads to disputed Aegean islands on Turkey's coastline. The United States warns

President Alexander Lebed. with Chinese support, tells the US to mind its own business. All three powers go on nuclear alert. Like Cuba, another island involved in a

Russia not to get involved.

missile dispute 36 years before, Cyprus has brought the world to nuclear confrontation. If the above scenario seems

fantastic, bear in mind that much of it is already unfolding. First of all, the EU gave a cast-iron promise in 1995 to open accession talks with Cyprus, even though with hindsight some states regard the pledge as rash. "Anyone who wants to join the EU must know that the European Union cannot deal with the accession of new members that bring in additional external problems," Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said last Monday.

This is to lock the stable door after the horse has bolted. Knowing that EU membership talks must start by about mid-1998, and encouraged by Greece, the Greek Cypriots feel they can play hard to get on a Cyprus settlement. Without major Turkish concessions, they will demand that southern

Cyprus joins the EU on its own a sure recipe for a crisis. Secondly, President Glafcos

Clerides and Rauf Denktash, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, may meet in spring to launch fresh peace talks. But even if such talks get under way - a big if - there is little reason to suppose they will diplomatic climate is too frosty, and both sides have a deeply entrenched belief that to blink first will be to lose.

Thirdly, several clashes along the Green Line erupted last year, causing the deaths of four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot. It was the most violent period on the island since the Turkish army's invasion in July 1974.

Lastly, the Cyprus government says that the missiles it ordered from Russia will cost 200m Cyprus pounds (£250m) and will arrive in 16 months -May 1998. According to a government spokesman, Yiannakis Cassoulides, the deal does not include a clause allowing Cyprus to cancel the order.

Turkey says that its armed forces will attack the Greek Cypriots if they deploy the missiles, whose range enables them to destroy planes in mainland Turkish airspace. Turkey has also talked of imposing a naval blockade of Cyprus.

mat with long experience of Turkey, these are not idle threats. "Turks can be incredibly stubborn in matters where they think the national interest is at stake. They've got to be taken

seriously," the diplomat said. This week Turkish naval vessels are visiting northern Cyprus in a show of teeth-baring solidarity with the Turkish Cypriots. Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces may also be combined for the first time at a new military base in the north.

For its part, Greece's Socialist government is preparing a huge, 10-year modernisation of its armed forces that will cost 4,000bn drachmas (£9.64bn), or almost £1,000 for every man, woman and child in Greece. Greece has also tightened its military links with the Greek Cypriots, especially by creating

ingredients for a bloody confrontation on Cyprus, sucking in Greece and Turkey, are present. The island is the world's most densely militarised confrontation zone. Like a dormant volcano that finally releases a torrent of fire and ash, Cyprus is poised to explode after 22 years of diplomatic stalemate and military stand-off. All outsiders, from the United States and the EU to

the United Nations, recognise

ommon defence space. n short, virtually all the

## **GREECE ON THE TURKS**

6 From 1995, the Turkish armed forces have established as a national interest the changing of borders in the Aegean ... They are making military preparations in this direction. Alds Tsochadzopoulos, Greek Defence Minister

Cinstead of concentrating on internal problems such as the lack of democracy and human rights, the Turkish government has pursued a nationalistic position towards Greece 9 Costas Simitis, Greek Prime Minister

←This visit [by Turkey's Foreign Minister to northern Cyprus] proves that Turkey cannot adjust to international legality. We denounce such actions. We believe they worsen the already bad climate. 9 Dimitrios Reppas, Greek government spokesman

dates their alliance in Nato, as the most likely contestants in Europe's next war.

Some Western experts believe that conflict may break out over other Greek-Turkish tensions, notably the disputed Aegean islands. This issue brought Greece and Turkey close to war in January 1996.

Still, everyone agrees that the status quo on Cyprus is untenable, and that the atmosphere is distinctly more tense now than it was six months ago. UN peacekeepers report more frequent trouble along the buffer zone separating Greek from Turkish Cypriots. But to agree on the problem's nature is not the same as to agree on its solution. The peculiar feature of the Cyprus dispute is that it drags on even though most of the world thinks it knows what a settle-

ment should look like. In 1991 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 716, which called for Cyprus to evolve into a "bicommunal and bizonal federation" - that is, a single state comprised of two politically equal communities.

Mr Denktash was not impressed. It is hard to believe that he will ever sacrifice his beloved Turkish Cypriot pariah state, set up in 1983 but recognised by no country except

Turkey. There are 30,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus, and the region's demography has been transformed by the arrival of large numbers of Turkish Anatolian settlers since 1974. They now make up more than 50,000 of the north's population of 180,000.

All the evidence suggests that Turkey intends to remain in northern Cyprus for the long term. However profound their sagreements on other issues, Turkish leaders of all stripes nationalist, military, liberal, secular, Islamist - show a remarkable unity of purpose over Cyprus, the so-called "national

The key to a deal therefore lies in Ankara - at least, as long as the world believes that reunification must underpin a lasting settlement on Cyprus. Only Turkey can make the vital concessions that would make a

reality of reunification.

the dangers. Indeed, many see
Greece and Turkey, whose
mutual antagonism long predates their allignes in National ish settlers, return Greek Cypriot territory and property, and much else besides. However, there is not the slightest reason to think that Turkey

plans to do any of these things Worse still, the ability of the US and the EU to persuade Turkey to make conces considerably diminished in the past year. Less receptive to US and European advice, Turkey is more inclined than ever to question the benefits of its allegiance to the Western alliance.

his is partly because of frustration with the EU. Turkey introduced several important measures of political liberalisation in late 1995 to secure a customs union with the EU, but Greece has blocked the funds that were to flow to Turkey as a result. Turkey is fed up with European criticism of its human rights record and with those who say it should never be offered full

EU membership. Turkey's alienation from the West has increased since the appointment last June of Necmettin Erbakan as its first Islamist prime minister since the Ottoman Empire's collapse. Much of his foreign policy has lated snub to the West, partic-

ularly the US. He has found time to visit Iran and Libya, but he has kept clear of Washington and EU capitals. When the US said Turkey should stop threatening to attack the Greek Cypriots, Turkey denounced the advice as "beyond the limits of diplo-

matic courtesy".

Turkey's relations with the West have rarely been troublefree, but the recent downturn could hardly have come at a worse time. The Turks feel let down and taken for granted by the West, while the US in particular is increasingly alarmed at the erratic Mr Erbakan.

In such circumstances, suspicions and misunderstandings can only grow - between Turkey and the West, Turkey and Greece, and Turkish and Greek Cypriots. The risk of war will rise, and the scope for pre-emptive diplomacy will shrink, unless the US and Europe make the gathering Greek-It would have to pull out Turkish crisis their top priority.

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## The BBC is trying to kill its jazz listeners

According to one Nato diplo-

wish I had caught the edition of Desert Island **L**Discs the other day on which Bruce Forsyth was the guest. From what little I have seen and heard of Bruce Forsyth, I think he probably has an interesting taste in music. I remember seeing him once in a TV programme about a top-flight piano tuner, who tuned the pianos of many po-faced classical performers. (He paid a visit for

example, to the pianist whose name I can never remember the one who is the spitting image of Roy Hudd - Alfred Brendel, that's the one - and when he had finished with Brendel's piano, he asked him to play a chord of C. Brendel sat down as if he were about to start a Beethoven recital and almost prayed with his eyes closed as he plucked a majestic chord of C out of it. Perhaps it is impossible for classical pianists to play even a scale without putting on all

that agony.) Not so Bruce Forsyth, who rippled a few nifty chords on his retuned piano, said it was very nice and launched into a funny story about Erroll Garner. It was the one big bright spot in the programme.

caught him on Desert Island Discs. The reason I wish I had heard him lies in a letter from Simon Woolf of London SE4,

"Dear Miles Kington "In case you are looking for more ammunition in your campaign against the BBC's woeful neglect of jazz, you might like to check out the rerun of Bruce Forsyth's Desert Island Discs on Friday. It was something of a surprise that Brucie's first choice was Bill Evans playing "Emily", but even more of a surprise to hear (or, are my ears playing tricks on me?) the LP going round at 45 rpm ...!"

Well, I am afraid Mr Woolf's letter got to me too late for me to hear the Forsyth repeat, so I cannot verify his suspicions. I could of course have telephoned the Desert Island Discs office to check, but past experience has not encouraged me to expect satisfaction. I once rang to inquire why they had played the wrong record on John Boorman's Desert Island Discs (Boorman had requested one iazz record and they had played a different one) and to



Miles Kington

heard the records he had requested, but they would answer neither question.

What is odd is that this seems only to happen to jazz records. Or at least it isn't odd if you subscribe to my theory that the BBC is doing it deliberately. The fact is, that jazz listeners are never satisfied. Faced with our complaints, the BBC has two options. To meet our complaints or get rid of us My theory is that the BBC has adopted the latter strategy and is trying to kill off the ask whether the guest actually troublesome jazz audience.

This is being done in two ways. One is to induce terminal fatigue by putting on Jazz Notes on Radio 3 at half an hour past midnight, so that anyone who wants to listen has to get up in the middle of the night and start ageing prematurely. The other is to induce sudden death in pedantic jazz listeners by making deliberate mistakes of a kind which they know will produce heart attacks.

I am not just thinking of playing records at the wrong speed. I have noticed several other strange examples recently. I am thinking of an announcement in the Radio Times the other day that saxophonist Lester Young had made his debut in 1956. (It

was actually around 1936.) I am thinking of Michael Rosen on Pick of the Week announcing with great delight that he was going to play a record of "Maple Leaf Rag" that Sidney Bechet had recorded with Louis Armstrong in 1924 and then playing a quite different record of the tune that Bechet recorded nearly 10 years later in

1932 with Louis Armstrong nowhere in sight.

I am thinking of the other day when I did for once sit up late enough to catch Jazz Notes and heard Digby Fairweather back-announce a Benny Goodman record by saying it was a marvellous version of "Rosetta". But it wasn'r. It was a not particularly marvellous version of a tune called "Yardbird Suite". Yes, Goodman did refer to the tune of "Rosetta" in the first chorus, but the rest of the time everyone else played "Yardbird Suite", which has a quite different tune and a quite different middle eight, as Digby Fairweather would have known if he had listened to the record. Or if it was not so late at

night that he too was half asleep and mistake-prone. Or if he had not been

instructed, along with Michael Rosen and the rest, to slip in as many mistakes about jazz as possible to induce the sort of apoplexy that will kill off pedants like me.

I warn the BBC. I have instructed my solicitor to sue them for millions of pounds should I be found dead in front of a radio. And, if I should die with a radio nowhere near me, to drag one over and switch it on.

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## Striking a balance between Whig and Tory views

ECE ON THE TURKS his has been a good week for the Lords and a bad one for the Commons. It 995, the Turkish armed forces ban ed as a national interest the change was, in the end, the peers who ders in the Aegean... They are may forced Jack Straw to drop his ry preparations in this direction unjustifiable support for a government measure that would hadzopoulos, Greek Defence Minister have given policemen, and policemen alone, the statutory right to decide when to bug and of concentrating on internal prob as the lack of democracy and home burgle in pursuit of their e Turkish government has pursuel

enquiries. Publicly - in that the peers. Liberal Democrat, judicial and those in the Labour Party like Lord Callaghan who could not be muzzled made a big fuss. Privately - in that it was Lord Irvine, Labour's Lord Chancellor in waiting and men-tor to the leader, who played a pivotal part in seeing to it that Straw changed his mind before the issue was debated in the upper house on Monday. It is not to much to say that if it had

been left to the House of Com-

mons, Michael Howard's mea-

sure would have survived. By a neat symmetry, another event on the same day exposed one of the Commons' most flagrant shortcomings. The min-ister Andrew Mitchell, appear-ing before the Standards and Privileges Committee to explain what he had been doing, as a government whip, on a committee investigating the allega-tions that Neil Hamilton took cash for questions, gave a fair account of himself. He was not. as his colleague David Willetts had been, hubristic in his evi-

dence. He had the grace to admit that "in hindsight" it probably would have been better if he had not been on the committee. But his very presence at the hearing served as a reminder of how comprehensively the whips permeate the select committee system, the one bit of the parliamentary jigsaw that everyone, in theory, accepts is there to check and scrutinise the executive.

This contrast, which underlines how much more easily the Commons can be bullied than the Lords, is not without ironies. It is after all Lords, rather than Commons, reform which makes headlines in Labour's programme. Yet doesn't most recent history suggest that it's the Commons that is failing in its constitutional

duty to exercise control over the government?

Not according to the self-confessedly heretical definition of the Commons' purpose which Douglas Hurd elegantly supplies in the new issue of Prospect magazine. He distinguishes between the "Whig" view of Parliament, that its main task is to check the executive, and the "Tory" view, which he shares, that one of its while helping it "to make decisions in the government and its mandate. national interest". A view most perfectly expressed by that highest of high Tories, the learning from five years in Opposition, Duke of Wellington, as "the Queen's government must be carried on". To paraphrase it was elected in 1979. Now Labour, if it wins, (rather crudely) Hurd's argument: as there is needs to take the Commons reform process furno separation of powers in the British constitution, as there is in the US, the "Tory", as ment. This is not to argue against Lords

the Commons. He is sensitive to the criticism will be the defects of the Commons.



Donald Macintyre

Parliament's role involves more than Douglas Hurd's belief

that it should 'sustain the executive'

> Iraq if it were not for the pervasive convention that on sensitive issues, departments answer parliamentary questions in the most contemptuously minimalist way they think they can get away with? But Hurd's central thesis is also surely too benign. A government certainly has a funda-

rushed through whipped stand-

ing committees without alter-

ation. He sensibly argues that Parliament would be improved

if there were lewer ministers.

He's right to point out that there must be something wrong

with a government which has

grown in numbers since it was

running first an empire, then a

command economy. It may not

be literally true, as a Permanent

Secretary assured me, that "80

per cent of the world's junior

ministers are in the British gov-

ernment". But the indefensible

exemption of the ministeriat

from the ruthless reduction in

Whitehall's manpower serves

only to reinforce government

patronage, and silence dozens

of the most intelligent and independent-minded MPs.

He is on less sure ground in suggesting that "Chief Whig"

Sir Richard Scott and Lord

Nolan may have "unwittingly"

contributed to the deterioration

of government and parliament.

Maybe the post-Nolan regime

on earnings disclosure will drive away some bright MPs. But

which does more to damage the

quality of MPs - that or the

hopelessly ramshackle lottery of

MP selection, not least in his

own party? He may be right that

Sir Richard was naive about the

workings of government. But would the Government have

been in trouble over arms to

mental right to get through the programme on which it was elected; properly used, whips lubricate democracy rather than merely impede it. The Commons needs a balance of functions to be healthy. It is a scandal that the whips patronage extends to the select committees, and that departmental committees don't have more resources and powers. And that more standing committees don't have the power to call expert witnesses while considering legislation or — occasionally — more freedom to divide on detailed provisions of Bills across party lines. You could even imagine a partial extension of the Salisbury doctrine (the convention which precludes the Lords from blocking legislation contained in a government's manifesto) to the Commons itself. It isn't too fanciful to think this would allow MPs to mprove dad Bi

To its credit, the Thatcher government, expanded the system of select committees when opposed to the "Whig", view must be right.

Hurd is critical of the detailed workings of make the Lords, the more glaringly apparent reform. Only to point out that the better you

# In hot pursuit of the irrational

by Richard D North



Sensible puritans, who never understand anything much, have not even noticed that there is plenty of socialist pleasure to be had from the sport. Labour may try to ban hunting, but it far outhids taxation as the most efficient way of divesting the rich of their money while affording the rest of us the innocent pleasure of watching them break their

magical uselessness - against the

But enough of puritans. Along with falling in love, bending the knee in prayer, and going to the opera, hunting is one of the few genuinely irra-tional occupations left to us. Of the three, it is the one most dig-nified (indeed defined) by extreme risk. Romancing, after all, does have some moments of solace. Church-going is for the risk-averse. Opera, like the oth-ers, offers high levels of barmi-

ness but far too little danger. Hunting is not merely very risky, but it has the merit of confining the risk-taking to volunteers. In this it differs from war, motoring or romance. People will go banging on about the fox's suffering, but this is absurd since God or nature has ordained a world in which foxes de nigeous geains anv least a hunt ensures the fox dies on an adrenalin high.

charm. Luckily there are very countryside's small woodlands, and some of its hedges, have been looked after for the benefit they bring as cover for pheas-



Ban fox-hunting, one of life's great weirdnesses? Never. The hunters would only find something more threatening to do

might learn to look after habitat because it is lovely. The real danger is in sug-

gesting that there is an economic merit in hunting. To be profoundly irrational, and to maximise life-enhancement, activities should demonstrate a vast capacity for getting peo-ple's money out of their pockets and then seeming to waste it. In this hunting nearly matches gambling.

Hunting is both popular and expensive and so the sums do ast a hunt ensures the fox dies get to be quite large. Janet an adrenalin high.

Of course, any rational argument for hunting reduces its says: "My rough count is that every fox killed by hounds susfew. It is true that many of the tains at least one full-time job and contributes to at least two others." The sum is fairly simply done, and necessarily impre-cise. Hunts kill about a tenth, or ants and foxes. But farmers 20,000, of the foxes which man

kills in the UK every year. The on its demise something like country's 189 hunts employ, on average, four to six people. Then there are the armies of people in the countryside who are employed by rich riders, or who after horses at livery for the less rich. Janet George continues: "Livery costs £80-£100 a week, then there's shoeing every three to four weeks, at an average 35 quid a time. Every time the vet is through the gate it's £25. 's say it's something like £5,000 a year for a horse, without the capital cost of buying it."

because of hunting. One way or another, according to a back-of-the-envelope calculation done by Lord Onslow and me one winter's morning, every fox killed by a hunt has probably had expended

She thinks perhaps 60,000

horses are kept in the country

£25,000, as it is chased by people the least of whom will have spent several hundred pounds on decent attire for the occasion. All this is without the cost of running a charismatic but decrepit Land Rover, which will do 10 miles to the gallon, when it's working at all, and tow a horsebox costing £3,000. "I don't think you can hunt for much less than £7,000 a year", says his lordship. Luckity, the money argument.

which comes near to being boringly sensible, doesn't really help the cause. Here, hunting's likeness to war is useful. It is important to demolish the idea delight the poor people among that the arms trade should be whom they desported. They preserved because it provides would have to get their kicks and jobs. This is not, in hunting's spend their money somehow case, the issue (noted by among others Professor Paul Dunne, of Middlesex University) that our eye on them.

HMG spends more of our money getting the deals than the deals are worth. Rather, the argument turns on the belief that when people and their talents become detached from one occupation, they quickly create or attach themselves to another. The arms trade is no more necessary to the country's wellbeing than canals, steam engines, or tweenies. Professor Colin Robinson, professor of economics at Surrey, and editorial director at the Institute for Economic Affairs, says: "What happens over time is that economies change and people find ways of doing things better and using less labour." Hunting is merely very inefficient pestcontrol and would on economic grounds be swept away. But the real point is that it ill-behoves a bunch of reactionaries and romanties like foxhunters to argue in favour of Soviet-style job creation, or even good sense.

If fox-hunting is banned, riders will switch to something more vulgar: say drag hunting, which is if anything more dangerous (because even faster than chasing foxes), though more predictable and less romantic. Riders are likely to fulfil the prediction of the risk analyst John Adams, who promulgates the view that everyone has an inbuilt taste for risk (and he might just as well have added: expenditure), which varies from person to person but cannot be circumvented. On this view, if you deprive a person of one avenue of putting himself at risk (or spending money), he will simply find another. So safer cars and roads simply produce worse driving: though the cocooned drivers may be contributing to thousands more virtual accidents to unprotected pedestrians whose response is to stop walking about - which is what most pedestrians have done.

If hunting were to be banned. risk-seeking horsemen and women might take to the highway on Kawasakis. They might take up winter yachting (an idea that seems improbable only until you recall the nature of the activity whose banning causes us to hypothesise on the matter). They might decide to have exotic affairs instead of chast foxes, and that would hugely increase their phone, restaurant and hotel bills. They might hunt abroad, which would and it might as well be here where we can delightedly keep

## Breakfast time, and he's full of fight

Feeble jokes and flat oratory aside, the Prime Minister remains formidable, says Andrew Marr

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Ulturkey and the here was no interruption from a wild-eyed, air-stabbing member of another party. There were no hard questions. Among the scrambled eggs, smoked salmon and coffee, there was a great, murmuringly omnipresent desire by hundreds of business leaders to be ... well, to be convinced by John Major. They are his natural friends and their breakfast hour with him in London yesterday was, by comparison with what will come, an easy venue for the electioneering Prime Minister. It did, however, provide a fascinating and use-

ful foretaste of how Mr Major will campaign; what his main lines of attack will be, and the tone of voice he has chosen in trying to grapple with and pin down new Labour.

Let us begin with the voice. He was not then, and never will be, a silky or inventive orator; the jokes were almost endearingly lame, the sentences studded with redundant "most emphaticallys", and the rhetoric replete with classic, anti-climactic Majorisms ("deregulation is like wrestling with a greasy pig - there is always a

lobby opposed to it").

But those of us easily distracted by the fleeting image of anti-pig-wrestling lobbies are in a minority. These slight eccentricities of speech apart, Major was compelling, lucid, thoughtful and friendly. The nation may not yet be at ease with itself; but its Prime Minister most emphatically is.

The central theme was that Britain is experiencing a golden economic dawn. It seems clear that Major wants to fight on the economy first,

and the constitution second. Economically, he wants to focus the country's mind on the remaining important differences of policy with Labour. Gordon Brown's emphasis on tackling youth unemployment will be met with The state of the s Tory insistence on the connection between the higher joblessness in France, Italy and Germany, and the minimum wage. Continental protectionism, Mediterranean social costs and Britain's swollen share of inward investment were savaged and lauded as Major tried to convince us that we really are, this time, on the edge of economic

Of course, incumbent politicians have been saying that for decades. With the exception of the Lawson hubris, economic success is perpetually declared to be "a real prospect", "just about one persistent Conservative line of around the corner" or "beginning to dawn" - a



benign, curly-haired golden Godot who never

quite makes it. Yet Major is a good advocate and much of his case today is not really contested by Labour (or Brown wouldn't have signed up to Kenneth Clarke's expenditure totals). On the other hand, like any good advocate, he ignored one half of the picture - our structural weaknesses, our underinvestment, the great swaths of failed and hopeless Britons. He was hot about the evils of job-killing minimum wage legislation, but strangely silent on the evils of poverty wages and exploitation

The Prime Minister did not dwell on Gordon Brown's dramatic promises about income tax and VAT, merely noting - interestingly - that if the Tories won, there would be "relatively little tax changes in the next parliament". He did ask a series of detailed questions about the legality, scope and scale of Labour's proposed windfall tax - Tony Blair's men now have ample warning about one persistent Conservative line of attack,

I did not get the impression that Major wanted either VAT or income tax to feature much in the coming campaign, perhaps for obvious historical reasons. But that, if so, would represent a hugely significant tactical Labour success, vindicating Brown's announcement at the beginning of the week. This, so far as I can tell, would make 1997 the first Tory campaign since the war not to feature Labour's plans for

income tax. Major was not, however, implying that taxation generally wouldn't feature. He reasserted his pledge to concentrate on cutting capital gains taxes and inheritance tax and hoped to cut the basic rate to 20p.

But he emphasised that all this would come

"only when it is affordable". Early Tory thinking in response to Brown's political coup on taxes seems to be to question new Labour's credibility, since the business cycle might mean taxes going up anyway, as happened after 1992. This is cheeky stuff. Once the Conservatives said Labour was irresponsible because it was the party a campaigning leader. And he has.

୍ **(D 0 0** 

of high taxation. Now they say Labour is irresponsible because it is promising not be a party of high taxes.

The other theme that Major wove in and out of his economic message was Europe. In a sense, for him, the EU and the economy have become a single message, with federalism and social protection the twin evils. Unlike, say, Michael Portillo or John Redwood, he describes the European question in economic and pragmatic terms. I don't think he mentioned the word

"sovereignty" once.
For him, "national interest" is more about GNP than the grand sweep of Our Island Story. As to the true Brussels-hater's fervid concentration on legal authority, European supreme law and all the rest, Major just doesn't get it. This must have comforted the businessmen, even if it depresses his Eurosceptics.

Partly because of the business audience, no doubt, Major said relatively little about the other big issue, political reform. But he was withering about Labour's proposal to turn the Lords into an elected quango. Far from the hereditary peers being Tory poodles, they had just defeated his government's proposals (on the Police Bill). This was something the Lords had not inflicted on him since - well - the day before. How would government be improved if the Lords were turned into a body appointed by Downing Street?

Fundamentally, I think, he is wrong on the Lords, just as he is deeply wrong when he suggests that Scottish home rule would be "the blue touch-paper" breaking up the British Union.

In the case of the Lords, there is a deep Tor majority available for the really importan occasions, and there is the anti-democratic us of inherited voting to frustrate the Commons He is right to mock Labour's half-way-House the answer is either abolition or an elected, sen atorial Upper Chamber. And when it comes to Scotland, it is the anti-change, anti-popular Tor diehard position which endangers the Union not the moderate proposals of the reformers

But this first real taste of Major in election eering mood was not a test of whether on agreed with his ideas or not - they are familia enough. It was more a test of his ability to com press and project arguments in a compelling wa - a test, in short, of whether he still "has it" :

## Alone and dying



A gardener found this tiny, defenceless soul, abandoned in the rushes of a pond. Hungry, frozen and afraid, it seemed like a hopeless case. But his finder drove four hours to deliver him into the welcoming arms of The Blue Cross.

Lyn, the deputy manager, hand-fed him through the night until he fell asleep, warm and safe in the crook of her neck. Under our watchful gaze he got bigger every day. But to treat, feed and care for Moses cost around £45. Your gift of £2 a month could help save another tiny life like Moses.

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S. S; 1- O	Please send me more information about how I can help animals like little Moses by making a gift to The Blue Cross.
y L	Name (MriMrs/Man)  Address
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r I- IS	Send to: The Blue Cross, Freepost, Room 776C, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4BR. Reg Chanty No. 224342

## High street setback dampens fears of rate rise

**Diane Coyle** Economics Editor

The prospect of a rise in interest rates before the general election has almost vanished after official figures yesterday showed that the volume of retail sales fell sharply in December. The surprise setback on the high street sent shares soaring to a record last night.

The sales figures were the latest in a series of statistics providing Kenneth Clarke with the

ammunition to resist Bank of than a pfennig to reach England advice that the cost of DM2.7142, within a few pfen-

borrowing should go up.
"The Chancellor is home and dry provided we do not see the pound weaken," said Leo Doyle, UK economist at Kleinwort Benson.

The pound, whose strength gave Mr Clarke the rationale for not raising base rates earlier this month, climbed further yesterday. Its index against a range of currencies gained 0.3 to 97.2. Sterling also gained more

nigs of the rate from which it tumbled out of the exchange rate mechanism in 1992. The FTSE 100 index closed

nearly 24 points higher at 4,219.1, having retreated slightly from earlier highs after Wall Street opened.

Although City economists still disagree about whether interest rates should go up, there was near-unanimity yesterday that any move would be post-

poned until after the election. per cent was due to a sharp fall Only an extremely buoyant figure for GDP growth in the final quarter of 1996, due to be published on Monday, could tip the balance the other way.

December's retail sales performance helped the case against tougher monetary policy. The volume of sales fell 0.8 per cent during the month, al-though the estimated increase in November was revised to 0.9 per cent from 0.7 per cent. Of last month's decline, 0.6

in sales of clothing and footwear following sharp increases in the previous two months. Sales in this sector remained the fastest-growing in the year to December, up 7.5 per cent, and discounts in the January

sales could lead to a rebound. Sales in "other" stores mainly specialist shops such as chemists and jewellers - also fell and here was a small decline in non-store retail sales - mainly mail order - whose growth has

Revving up or reversing? Mixed fortunes for car makers

There were increases in all other categories. These were strongest in department stores and supermarkets. The volume of sales at foodstores increased by 0.4 per cent in December and 2.6 per cent year-on-year.

Tim Congdon, one of the Treasury's panel of "wise persons", said that one month's worth of weak data did not mean the case for tighter monetary policy had evaporated. "I would not put much weight on ruary.

been slowing for some months. the figures around Christmas. The inflationary dangers re-

main," he said. But others were more doubtful. "There is now enough of a question about the pace of growth for it not to matter waiting a month or two," said Michael Saunders, an economist

at Salomon Brothers. The next monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will take place on 5 Feb-

## Windfall tax 'may see price controls loosened'

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, sig-nalled yesterday that he might be prepared to loosen price controis on power companies if they were hit by Labour's windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

He told MPs at a Commons

Trade and Industry Select Committee hearing yesterday that he would not relax the price caps affecting different elements of the industry, but he could take the impact of the windfall tax into account when deciding the next set of price controls.

Recognising the intense pres-sure utility regulators are likely to face from their industries if Labour wins power, Professor Littlechild said: "When the time comes to review controls, companies will put forward a whole series of arguments and we have to see what we make of them. But that situation has not arisen yet.

Facing repeated probing from Conservative and Labour committee members, he went on: "I cannot say what the im-plications would be because I cannot say what the companies would put to me. They'd have to persuade me that they could no longer finance their licence activities." Later Professor Littlechild confirmed ministers could veto his decisions.

The current set of prices controls affecting the regional electricity companies' main discribution activities expire in 2000, while separate controls on their supply businesses, due to be opened to competition, will be renewed in 1998. The National Grid transmission network agreed a new price cap with the watchdog, Offer, which

lasts from April until 2001. The comments are one of the most explicit admissions yet by a regulator that the windfall tax, which the City believes could raise between £5bn and £10bn, could feed through to customer prices if the companies involved has consistently denied the tax would have any effect on consumers' bills, arguing that companies could absorb the cash

demand by raising borrowing. Professor Littlechild will also face equally fierce pressure from consumer groups after a Labour victory, seeking to head off any claims by the utilities

that they cannot afford the tax. Yvonne Constance, national chairman of the Electricity Consumers' Committees which advises Offer, warned: "We do not think customers should be paying windfall tax. If there is to be windfall tax it is intended to come from those who have made the windfall and that is the shareholders or new owners. We would watch most closely to make sure not a single charge is made against customers.

## Toyota lifts hopes of rise in **UK** output

#### Michael Harrison

The prospects of a further huge boost to the British car industry were strengthened yesterday after the Japanese motor giant Toyota said European output would double to about 350,000 cars early in the next decade.

The plan puts Toyota's £1bn Burnaston factory in Derbyshire in prime position to build a third model to compete in the small car sector of the market against the likes of the Nissan Micra.

However, Toyota executives cautioned that the chances of the investment coming to Britain would be seriously jeopardised if Britain's increasingly Eurosceptic stand hampered its relationships with the rest of

Output from the Burnaston plant is due to increase from 117,000 this year to 200,000 a year from late 1998 when it starts production of a second the existing Carina E.

The increase in production will see the workforce rise from 2,300 now to 3,000. But if Burnaston is selected for a third model it would mean at least another 700 jobs and further investment of £200m or more and come as a further vote of confidence in the British motor industry following Nissan's decision to build a third model in the North-east.

Alan Marsh, vice-chairman of Toyota Motor Europe, said: We would like to develop the product range to include a Micra-sized car and ideally we would like to grow Burnaston but a company like Toyota never closes the door. We are always evaluating the European market and it is in our interests to look at other sites."

The Burnaston plant is identical in configuration to Toyota's Kentucky plant in the US where production of the Camry and a

people carrier called the Sienna is running at 400,000 a year. Toyota's plan is to build 60 per cent of the cars it sells in Europe locally compared with 30 per cent at present.

crease European sales to 600,000 by the turn of the century and wants more of those cars built in the same location as they are sold. Further Japanese investment

decision to axe production of the Escort at its Halewood plant on Merseyside with the loss of 1,300 jobs. Ford blamed the cutbacks

However, Britain's relationship with Brussels will be a key factor as the timing approaches for a decision on where to locate the new plant.

Eurosceptics win the day and drive us to a referendum on Europe and the public vote to stay out that would have very severe consequences for a manufacturing company like Toyota." The Japanese car maker de-

to key Labour policies.

Comment, page 19

Last year about 130,000 of the 412,000 cars it sold in Europe were built locally, nearly all of them Carina E cars from Burnaston. The company, Japan's biggest car maker, plans to in-

would help make up for Ford's

Toyota executives rejected this reasoning. "In terms of our sales plan we have a shortage of capacity," said Tatsuo Takahashi, managing director of Toyota Motor Europe.

Mr Marsh said: "If the

clined to become embroiled in the row over the support given by leading British businessmen

#### (2) VAUXHALL NISSAN £300m investment at Ellesmere Port on new facilities to increase production of Astra from 140,000 to £1.5bn invested Including £215m on third model, an Escort-sized car, taking production from 250,000 this year to 350,000 in 2000. 160,000. 40 per cent of Workforce to rise to Ford, Vauxhall Ford Derby Toyota Birmingham Rover, Jaguar 👄 Escort production to cease at Halewood in 2000 with immediate reduction in workforce £1.1bn invested. 1,300 lost 200.000 with introduction of Corolla sized car in 1998 and workforce increasing to to 3,700. Possibility of Swindon Honda new "people carrier" being built depending 3,000. Prospect of building third small car on productivity and taking production to 350,000. government grants. **PEUGEOT** ROVER HONDA Investing £1.2bn on Investing £700m at new engine plant at Hams Hall, new Mini at 15,000 Plan to build second Swindon, Production rising to 150,000 by 1998 and workforce model at Ryton, new X200 model, doubling production to 80,000 a year and Coventry alongside 306 sto replace the 206. Longbridge and new small Land Rover at Solihuli, Total increasing to 2,500 Currently making the Civic and Accord but Three year investment increasing workforce to 4.100. workforce expected to remain at 39,000. adding a third model Call goes out for 2,000 in jobs scheme

#### Jili Treanor

Co-Operative Bank yesterday announced a plan to get the long-term unemployed back to work, the most novel scheme among a raft of new job creation plans by industries in the Northwest, South Wales, Northern Ireland and the Midlands. Altogether, the announcements will bring 2,000 new jobs in a variety of businesses.

The bank, which prides itself on its "ethical" approach to banking, is targeting the longterm unemployed and "highquality" short-term unemployed for 200 new jobs at its telephone banking operation in Stock-

port.
The Co-Op's call centre on

the edge of the M56 in Southport opened last year and of the staff hired at the time some 30 per cent were previously unemployed. The bank will work with Stockport Borough Council and Stockport and High Peak Training and Enterprise Council (TEC).

"Earlier this week the Com-mission on Public Policy and British Business stressed the importance of tackling unemployment because it is a drag on the competitiveness of Britain. said Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-Op Bank.

"This partnership with organisations from the local community has demonstrated that business can play a role in helping unemployed people by giv-

dress for certain types of soci-

ety member comes as most

ing a genuine opportunity to compete in the recruitment process," Mr Thomas added. Meanwhile. Parcelforce is creating the largest chunk of the 2,000 jobs announced yesterday as a result of a £100m invest-

ment in a new distribution centre in Coventry. This is the biggest single in-vestment by Parcelforce and will create 700 jobs, although it could cause some to be axed from other centres in Peter-

borough and Birmingham over the next three years. In Northern Ireland, Shorts, the aerospace company, expects to create up to 60t) jobs on the back of a new aircraft contract. Bombardier, the Canadian owner of Shorts, said

that the factory in Belfast would it was investing more than £25m to build one of the largest meat be involved in a new 70-seater regional jet.

Shorts will carry out design work and produce fuselages for the aircraft, which is due to take to the air by the turn of the millennium.

Meanwhile, in Merthyr Tydil. south Wales, almost 700 jobs will be created at a new meat processing plant. Also in south Wales, Bisley Office Equipment, the UK's largest manufacturer and exporter of office create 150 jobs through a £10m investment programme to expand its factory in Newport. In Merthyr, St Merryn Meat. which supplies meat to super-

market giant Tesco, announced

And separately across the border in Gloucester 100 new johs will become available as result of a £25m investment in a motor parts factory. Gillian Shephard, education

processing plants in Europe on

reclaimed land. The company

employs nearly 1,000 workers

mainly in the South-west of

England and plans to take on

another 603 in Merthyr.

and employment secretary, said: "We are reaping the rewards of a flexible labour market with no Social Chapter and no national minimum wage. Today's news is particularly welcome as it shows the benefits are being enjoyed across the country."

## Handicappeds' first step to society share bonanza

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#### Nic Cicutti

A parliamentary bid to force demutualising societies to set aside funds for handicapped people who would otherwise be denied a share in this year's £15bn flotation bonanza received an unopposed first reading yesterday.

A private member's Bill by

Douglas French, the Conservative MP. was backed after he told the House of Commons that it was wrong to stop handicapped people, who were second-named signatories on society accounts, receiving a share of the handouts.

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Mr French said: "The first there may be about 100,000 reading was very successful and members of those societies I have received a lot of sympathy and support from both sides of the House. The second read-

ing will be on 14 February.

That might be a bit more difficult because there are other items of business on the agenda for that day. I am in the hands of others ahead of me on the He said, however, that sup-

port for his measure had come from the Treasury, which is also trying to obtain parliamentary time for its own Build-

Mr French estimates that

STOCK MARKETS

about to seek a stock market flotation, including Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock, who would benefit from his measure, at a cost of about £10m to £15m. "This is considerably less than the amount that societies

they prepared to float," he "One wonders how it is possible that these same highly paid City institutions were not able to find a formula to allow such

payments to handicapped soci-

ety members."

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societies have faced hundreds of thousands of calls from memhers who may be denied a share in the flotations. Halifax Building Society yesterday said that staff working on its telephone hot line are have paid to City institutions as handling up to 30,000 calls a day

from members with questions about the flotation. A Halifax spokeswoman said: "Most of the calls involve fairly straightforward questions from people who want to know how many shares they might be en-

titled to or when they have to

million members it would be unlikely if we did not make mistakes. Just 0.5 per cent of mistakes would be enough to fill Wembley Arena."

Among those who are complaining about Halifax are Ian and Mariorie Strang, a couple who have been both borrowers and savers with the society for more than 10 years and hoped for a double handout worth at least £1,600.

However, Halifax deducted the couple's mortgage payments from Mrs Strang's account on 31 December.

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Mr French's bid to obtain revote by, that sort of thing. We reducing her balance below the ress for certain types of socihave said before, that with 8.5 £100 needed to qualify for free shares, instead of the normal date of the first of each month. Mr Strang, who lives in London, said: "I can't believe that they have done this and treated loyal men.bers in this way. We are not rich and this would have been a nice little bonus. The society was never given authority to remove payments from our account on that day,"

Gary Marsh, head of corporate affairs at the society, said last night that it would be wrong to comment on Mr French's bill while Halifax members were still voting on the existing proposals.

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## Actuaries get whistleblowing phone hotline

The new pensions regulator is to set up a telephone hotline for whistleblowing actuaries and auditors, who will be expected to report suspected problems in pension schemes, The Pensions Act 1905, a re-

sult of the Maxwell scandal, becomes law on a April and will protect actuaries and scheme anditors who wish to give information on a confidential basis. The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, which

formally starts work in April. also made clear vesterday that it expected to be upped off about a wide range of minor problems found in pension schemes. Opra does not want its informants to restrict themselves

to suspicions of serious wrongdoing such as fraud or to communicate only through lawyers. Opra said this was so that it could use the information about minor problems to see if it could identify patterns of hehaviour among pension schemes

that had difficulty complying with the new pensions act. A spokesman and "We want to avoid a situation where the only things reported to us are

heinous crimes that are obviously breaches,"

With more than 200,000 pension schemes to oversee and no powers to require annual reporting to the authority, "intormation and intelligence is the key", the spokesman said. The whistleblowing line will

he protected by Section 48 of

the act, though if the information is to be acted on it will have to be followed up in writing and it can be an offence to give wrong information. Opra said oral advice during discussions over the whistleblowing line should not be treated as a binding decision by

the regulator, and would be without prejudice" to any subsequent decisions made on the To encourage constructive use of Section 48. Opra said schemes should be confident that isolated initial breaches of the act which brought no sig-

nificant danger to members' pensions would "not, as a matter of course, lead to penalties". The Institute of Actuaries and the Institute of Chartered Accountants both said they had yet to receive and study a copy

of the consultation document.

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#### dangers ree more doubta, eurondy of a the pace of to to matter or two," said loosened . an economist with meeting a Chris Godsmark Business Conespondent Benk of Eng-ace on 5 Feb.

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Professor Stephen Linder the electricity regulary nailed vesterday that he c be prepared to lossen protrops on beaner combanies? were hit by Labour companies.
were hit by Labour coming
on the privatised unline.
He told MPs at a Com-Trade and Industry Scient mittee hearing vestenda inwould not relay the price affecting different element the industry, but he could the impact of the winds into account when deading next set of price contok Recognising the intense oure utility regulators are be to face from their industry

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**Horlick** 

admits

to ABN

talks

Nicola Horlick, the 'super-

woman" fund manager who has resigned from Morgan Grenfell Asset Management,

admitted for the first time

yesterday that she had held

preliminary talks this month

with ABN Amro, a rival firm.

allegations about her moving to a rival firm had been sparked by a lunch she attended late last

year with a close friend at ABN

MGAM is alleging that she

breached her contract by

attempting to solicit staff for a

rival firm. She denies this and is considering whether to bring legal action against MGAM for "constructive dismissal".

She said yesterday that talks

with ABN Amro were of an "in-

formal and preliminary nature"

and that at no stage did she

provide ABN Amro with con-

al days before I was suspended."

Mrs Horlick said. "My aim was

always to keep the clients and

the team together for the benefit of all."

Mrs Horlick, given her nick-name for her ability to juggle a demanding social life and job,

hit the headlines last week after

The latter comment did little

to quell rumours that she had

been considering a management

buy-out of MGAM's pension

funds business. Her spokesman

said she had never made such a

proposal and that her acknowl-

edgement of "informal and pre-

her acrimonious departure.

The talks terminated sever-

idential information.

Previously she had said that

Banking Correspondent

COMMENT more worn out yesterday after another Japanese car maker dropped heavy hints about expanding further in Britain.

The official Ford line is that it cannot jus-'Of the 700,000 tify building its new Escort in three places cars that Toyota and because there is already surplus capacity in

Nissan could conceivably be building here early

three-quarters

the Continent'

will be shipped to

The view from Toyota City on the outskirts of Nagoya is rather different. There, they will cheerfully tell you, the picture is one of in the next millennium. chronic undercapacity in Europe. Their plan is to sell 600,000 cars in Europe by the turn of the century - a shade under 5 per cent of the market - and to achieve that while remaining good citizens means more than doubling local production in the next

THE INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 1997

The message from Nissan, which has just taken the plunge and confirmed plans to build a third model at its Sunderland plant, is much the same. The second model that Toyota will introduce at its Burnaston plant next year and the third model Nissan intends to build in the North-east will compete headon with the Escort. That rather gives the lie to the idea that this is a segment of the market consumers are backing away from in search of something more exotic.

The car in front is a Toyota, as they say grudgingly in Detroit these days. Ford's

the motor industry and this would only add

The reality is that customers are backing away specifically from the latest Escort

which has struggled to live up to its prede-cessors despite some monumental marketing back-up.

threadbare excuses for ending Escort production at Halewood were made to look even That is hardly Halewood's fault because Escorts built in Saarlouis and Valencia are no more popular. Where Merseyside can be faulted is in developing a reputation for poor quality in the 1970s and 1980s that dished any hopes it had of ever becoming a major

export business. Of the 700,000 cars that Toyota and Nissan could quite conceivably be building here early in the next millennium, three-quarters will be shipped to the Continent. The only thing likely to spoil that happy picture is a disastrous lurch in a Eurosceptic direction. But if that happens, it will not just be jobs in Burnaston and Sunderland that are in

#### Football has its investment merits

The crisis at Millwall, the football club 1 whose fans chant "No one likes us - we don't care" to opposing supporters, comes as no surprise to followers of these matters. Drifting along in a lower division with only average crowds and little television money to speak of is hardly the stuff of stock market excitement.

But while many of Millwall's problems are specific to the South London club, this week's developments may force a fresh

appraisal by starry-eyed entrepreneurs (Joe Lewis, he of Christies fame, joined the handwagon yesterday with a £40m investment in a Glasgow Rangers) and investors of the market's latest fashion sector. Up until now most have been playing a stock market ver-

Our car industry looks different from Japan

صكنا من الاحل

sion of fantasy football. So just how good are these clubs - as businesses that is? The first thing to note is that the picture is mixed. Return on capital in some cases such as Manchester United and Tottenham can be very good - as high as 30 per cent. This is because money from television rights requires no real capital investment in the first place. Others such as Chelsea and Leeds have ratios of just 2 per

Most City institutions are still very wary of investing directly in football clubs, tending to get involved only through tracker lunds. They will be using the £150-£200m float of Newcastle United to reappraise their view. A small but committed minority, however, see them as classic "people businesses", such as advertising agencies and PR consultancies, and believe they should be valued on the same basis. Indeed football seems rather better at dealing with the tantrums of its star players than a great many other people businesses, judging by the Nicola Horlick fiaseo.

Football, then, does indeed have some investment merits. But stock selection is the name of the game. And don't count on pay per view being quite the goldmine for

investors that some are expecting. More than likely the fruits of this new source of income will end up with the players rather than the investors. That's the problem with people businesses. The people have an awful ten-dency to demand a very large slice of whatever cake is going.

#### Pressure is on to blow the whistle

Hient confidentiality and sheer timidity are among the reasons why in the past whistleblowing has been a no-no for actuaries and accountants. But for well over a decade, the pressure has mounted on them to do more than agonise and resign the account when they suspect something is wrong. Why don't they actually pick up a phone and tell somebody, is the recurring question.

The strongest pressure has come in the banking industry, where Johnson Mathey Bankers, BCCI and now Barings have embroiled auditors in lengthy lawsuits about who missed what in the accounts, and bit- i ter recriminations about why they did not say anything at the time.

It was the 1987 Banking Act, written to correct deficiencies in the legislation shown years that concentrated their minds on the | Opra.

Not that there has been any marked increase among auditors of whistleblowing. So far the profession's most decisive response to fraud has been the rapid devel-opment of plans to become limited companies or offshore limited partnerships, thus

limiting their liability. Now the actuarial profession is coming under renewed pressure to whistle blow too.

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority is asking actuaries to report cases not be just serious abuse, but the entire range of minor problems that actuaries and auditors discover within pension funds. It wants to use this information as a database that will in future allow it to identify the characteristics of problem funds.

Well. This is progress of sorts but it is a poor substitute for legislation. The 1995 Pension Act drew back from making all pension funds register and report to the authority on grounds of cost and complexity. Detailed regulation and reporting requirements were deemed impossible. The Act even omitted to make whistleblowing obligatory. So now we have this self-administered stab at the problem.

The trouble is that it is not in the cautious nature of actuaries and auditors to pick up the phone for every minor problem and tip up by JMB, that brought the concept of off the authorities. This scheme might just legalised whistleblowing to the auditing work, but only if pension fund trustees make off the authorities. This scheme might just profession. And it was the wave of legal | it their business to prod actuaries and audiactions against auditors over the past 10 | tors into constant communication with

## Clyde not for sale under 135p, say key shareholders

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Gulf Canada's £432m bid for Clyde Petroleum is set to fail unless the Canadian oil explorer increases its bid by almost a third to put a value on its British target of more than

It has emerged that key shareholders are unwilling to sell out for less than 135p, considerably above the 105p a share Gulf has so far tabled and well ahead of the current share price of 120.5p.

Ownership of Clyde is unusually concentrated with just four shareholders controlling more than 50 per cent of the company's shares. Schroders, with 19 per cent,

and PDFM, which has 14 per with American institution Capital and Norwich Union holding another 17 per cent between

Persuading those four would secure victory, while Wittington, the Prudential and CIN control another 11 per cent.

shareholders is 62 per cent. among investors that chief ex-Commenting on the bitter war ecutive Roy Franklin has shifted of words that has erupted between the two companies, one big shareholder questioned Gulf's decision to highlight Clyde's dependence on acquiring oil reserves rather than

finding them with the drill bit. "Gulf says the that oil business has become a sellers' market in which the owners of oil assets are not prepared to give away value. In those circumstances why should I do so?" he asked.

He said it was possible to arrive at a valuation of between 140p and 150p a share using either Gulf's favoured net asset value approach or the cash flow model championed by Clyde and he indicated he would be unwilling to sell out of Clyde's track record.

Another significant investor, who also preferred not to be named said he saw little point in accepting an offer at the current market price only to reinvest the proceeds in a similarly rated oil stock when he contin-Clyde's management.

da's restaurants division.

\$23.14bn from \$21.92bn.

liminary" talks with ABN Amro did not alter her previous stance.

and bolster its leadership position in the civilian aircraft market well above its nearest rival, Europe's Airbus Industrie.

expected to announce its full-year profits next month.

• The Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed an appeal brough

by a network of independent financial advisers which had argued

that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman did

not have jurisdiction to investigate it. The ruling in the Queen's Bench division means the PIA Ombudsman can investigate cus-

tomer complaints against Steeds, a firm which was once part of

the Burns Anderson Independent Network. Investors had com-plained about financial losses they suffered as result of business conducted by Steeds, the PIA said.

• Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, yesterday outlined tougher rules governing the relationship between privatised wa-

ter companies and their non-regulated subsidiary operations. The

move follows an attack by Mr Byatt late last year on many of the

10 water and sewerage companies for failing to put contracts with subsidiaries out to competitive tender and their failure to clearly

allocate costs between the regulated water businesses and non-

regulated activities. The guidelines require the industry to put

more emphasis on market testing of contracts and require com-

panies to report transactions between associated parts of the group.

• IBM's stock dropped as much as 7.7 per cent yesterday after the world's largest computer maker reported lower-than-expected

sales and earnings for the fourth quarter. IBM's stock fell 9 to 159 and accounted for 32 points of the 51.57 point drop in the

Dow Jones Industrial Average. Earlier, the shares fell as low as 155. IBM said fourth-quarter profit rose 18 per cent, slightly less than expected, as a stronger dollar and weak demand in Europe

hurt results. IBM said net income rose to \$2.02bn (£1.22bn) from \$1.71bn in the year-earlier quarter. Sales climbed 5.6 per cent to

The European Commission has cleared Cadbury Schweppes

to sell its 51 per cent stake in Amalgamated Beverages Great Britain

The European Commission opened an antitrust inquiry into

Boeing's \$13.9bn (£8.4bn) acquisition of McDonnell Douglas Corp

amid concern the alliance would strangle competition, the EU's top competition official said. The purchase, announced last month,

will make Boeing the world's biggest maker of military aircraft

to Coca-Cola Enterprises, which is controlled by Coca-Cola.

ecutive Roy Franklin has shifted Clyde away from an unsuc-cessful exploration strategy towards profitable acquisition-led growth

Both fund managers believe Clyde will soon publish an estimate of its net asset value from industry consultant Energy Resource Consultants that puts a basic price tag of 105p on its assets.

That compares with previous brokers' estimates of an average 76p and, with an appropriate premium for control, also implies an acceptable bid price of about 140p. Earlier this week Gulf re-

sponded to two defence documents from Clyde with a strongly worded condemnation document claimed that

Clyde had eroded shareholder value, failed to replace reserves and displayed a "woeful exploration record". Clyde dismissed the attack as

"predictable rhetoric". Clyde has until next Tuesday

ued to value the track record of to complete its defence with Gulf given one more week after There is general agreement that to make a final offer.

## in £50m Racal

Chris Godsmark

Telewest, the UK's largest cable Cable & Wireless yesterday appointed the second member of the senior executive team to run its £5bn cable venture, C&W Communications, formed out the merger of its Mercury subsidiary with Bell Cablemedia, Nynex CableComms and Videotron. Nicholas Mearing-Smith, chief financial officer of Nynex Cable-Comms, is to be finance director of the new company when it is formed in the spring. He will join Graham Wallace, chief executive of C&W Communications, who left a job as head of Granatic network in a deal with Racal.
The investment will link

• Some traders at Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment banking arm of Credit Suisse, the Swiss bank, may have been awarded bonuses of more than \$20m after profits in 1996 were estimated to have doubled to about \$1.1bn (£665m) before tax. As many as 50 people in CSFB's bond department received bonuses of at least \$1m, according to unconfirmed reports. CSFB is Racal, the defence electron-

ics group, is close to signing contracts to lease capacity on its BRT fibre network which it bought from British Rail two years ago for £133m. Of the total investment it is thought about £10m could flow through to Racal in a deal expected to last for 15 years.

Telewest yesterday said its total residential customer base had grown by 34 per cent last year to 768,755. The strongest increase in demand was for telephone services, rising 46 per cent to 627,009 customers. compared with 528,142 television subscribers.

that a decision was due soon on whether to appoint him as permanent chief executive. A board meeting held last Tuesday again failed to resolve the appointment.



Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

British Telecom was last night heading for a legal clash with Bell Cablemedia over the cable operator's controversial new advertising campaign which attempts to lure potential customers with the theme: "Don't waste money – switch to cable."

The promotion, launched this week, includes posters in the East End of the capital reinforcing the price message with the slogan "British Telecon".

The phrase has incurred the wrath of BT's in-house lawyers. who are understood to have written to Bell Cablemedia warning that such claims are untrue. may be defamatory and could infringe laws on trademarks. A BT spokesman declined to say whether Bell would be served with a writ if the advertisements

"BT reserves its position on

this issue until we've examined these adverts further," he said. Bell Cablemedia refused to discuss details of the campaign or confirm the advertising slogans had been used on poster sites.

The dispute is the latest fallout from increasingly tough price competition in the industry. Cable operators are seeking to maintain their price advantage despite BT's aggressive cuts in charges to comply with

the annual price formula set by the regulator. Oftel. At the same time BT, under the chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, has made price comparisons more confusing by introducing discount packages such as the Friends and Family scheme. It also emerged vesterday

that BT had abandoned a planned court case against AT&T. the US telephones giant, after claiming the American group's British operation had also used allegedly "misleading"

advertising. The decision to drop the action comes a month after a High Court judge refused to grant BT an injunction to prevent AT&T continuing with the promotional claims, AT&T had said on direct mail literature that it was 40 per cent cheaper than BT on selected international calls.

A BT spokesman said: "Failure to get the injunction showed how difficult it is to take action against someone even where there is an overwhelming case. Anyway AT&T has dropped the advertising claims and we are not ones to bang our heads against brick walls.

However, a spokesman for AT&T insisted the promotional literature had not been changed: "The reason BT has dropped the case is that after losing the injunction it was clear there was no case for us to answer. We are still using all the claims in our advertising that BT had objected to."

## **Telewest** deal with

annual price formula set by Oftel

Sir Peter Bonfield: Cut charges at BT to comply with the

supplier.

IBM 6x85 P150+ processor The P150+ provides performance etnost equal to first of a Intel Pentium P166 (Winstone scores of 81 9 v 827) Upgradeable to 2004Pt Penform 164b PAM: 256K pipeline burst mode cache

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company, yesterday pledged even tougher competition with British Telecom and BSkyB by announcing plans to invest £50m in developing a national fibre op-

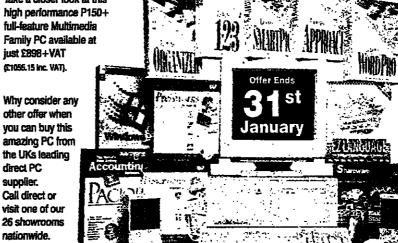
Telewest's regional cable franchises based around London, Bristol, the West Midlands, the North West, Typeside and Scotland by 1998, allowing many phone calls and cable television services to be transmitted without using the existing fibre net-works of BT and Mercury.

The agreement will be seen as further distancing Telewest from some of the other cable operators that are in the process of merging with Cable & Wireless's Mercury subsidiary in a £5bn deal. Telewest is thought to have previously discussed joining the merger with Dick Brown, C & W's chief executive. Stephen Davidson, Telewest's

acting chief executive, also promised to offer a digital television service to cable customers by the end of this year, the same timetable as BSkyB. He said he was close to agreeing contracts with companies to make set-top boxes to access programmes.

Mr Davidson also disclosed

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Cara Salinde

istleblowing one hotline

## Stakis bet and breakfast good value

visions, hotels and casinos, and had been dull since the recent takeover of

Yesterday's first-quarter trading statement was therefore seized on as a further opportunity for the market to continue the catch-up of the last few weeks. The shares closed 4p higher at 105.5p, usefully ahead of the 87p low reached in November.

The market chose to focus on an apparent turnaround at the troubled casinos division, where attendances in the three months to December jumped from 525,000 to 603,000, even if those punters were concentrating more on Dundee-based convenience store to the supermarkets. Driven by a novel punters were concentrating more on the machines than the tables and so

charges a couple of years ago has or. been achieved with a higher cost base. Still, the outlook for the gaming arm remains good in the long run. Dereg-ulation, when it comes, will lift the number of amusement machines allowed in casinos, reduce membership restrictions and send the business down the more populist Las Vegas route. where 90 per cent of revenues come through machines, generating much more predictable earnings streams.

In hotels, stripping out the closure during the period of the Stakis Tyneside's 147 rooms meant occupancy was stable at just over 72 per cent and the room rate pushed up nicely from £45.58 to £50.10. The Metropole hotels were only in for six weeks so the jury remains out on whether Stakis overpaid for them. Certainly the potential for improvement is there, with occupancy outside London a meagre 55 per cent. but a price tag of £327m for operating profits of £22.9m means the pressure is on Stakis to wring out cost savings and boost guest numbers.

These caveats aside, the long-term outlook for Stakis remains strong. Deregulation should transform casinos into a mainstream, highly profitable and cash-generative leisure activity. In hotels, there looks to be plenty still to go for in the current trading cycle, with demand set to carry on growing and little new capacity to cope with those extra numbers. Demographic changes make the weekend leisure business an increasingly attractive opportunity.
On the basis of pre-tax profits to next

September of about £59m, the shares trade on a prospective price earnings ratio of 15. That is not much more than a market rating, which compares with the much higher multiples given to

## Stakis's shares had failed signally since last spring to benefit from the improving outlook for both of its main di-

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Loarho's Metropole hotels and the f200m rights issue to fund the deal. other companies. There is great scope in this business for small increases in into bigger increases in profits. With the outlook set fair for the rest of this year, the shares are good value.

#### Watson & Philip serves up a treat

food distribution group, seem to have spending less. Stakis's win percentage is also low by industry standards and winning customers back after the ill-conceived imposition of membe. The charges a couple of years ago has on.

vious market expectations.

If October's hiccough had never hap-pened, news of an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £20.1m on sales 16 per cent ahead at £577m for the year to 27 October would surely have been well received. They would also have made for a smoother transition for the new chief executive, Colin Glass, who was appointed from Dixons in the au-

But Watson has a good story to tell. The group has made a decent fist of achieved yield per room to translate moving out of cash and carry, a declining market, and into the more interesting areas of convenience stores and "food service".

The former, trading under the Alldays fascia, is now the core of the group. raising profits by a quarter to £15.1m last year. The growth is coming from new store openings and raised margins, rather than organically, where an un-derlying like-for-like sales increase of equity-linked agreement for franchisees, Watson opened a net 89 stores last year and is planning another 150 in the current period, including 50 on

Total petrol forecourts. Operating margins, already up from 4.9 per cent to 5.4 per cent, have further to go as Alldays drives out low value-added groceries and household goods in favour of a range of convenience areas. Video rental, pizzas, Dunkin' Donuts franchises and dry cleaning are all being trialled or rolled out in parts of the 526-strong chain. Sales are running ahead of last year. More exciting perhaps is food ser-vice, supplying food for restaurants, ho-

	· •			
Stakis:	At a gla	nce		
Market value; £8				:
Five year record 1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
	Dimeyodia	erige e		
Pre-tax profits (2m) 48.6	9.4	20.2	25.8	29.2
Dividends per share (pence) 0.45	1.00	1.55	1.75	2.15
Market capitalisation (2m)	Share	price o	ence)	
1000	110 100			

like sales up by a fifth for the third year running. Third biggest with a 4 per cent share of the market, W&P Foodservice should have plenty of room to grow as customers demand a more comprehensive national service.

Group profits of £24m this year, for a prospective multiple of 10, make the shares look good value.

#### JD Sports has impressive form

John David Sports may have been priced at the top end of expectations when it came to the market in October, but the sports retailer has more than justified the rating. Priced at 285p. the shares shot to a high of 346p within two months and have only recently come off their peak.

The driver of this success and of others such as JJB Sports and Blacks Leisure has been the spectacular growth of the branded sports goods market. Here in the fashion-conscious world of the younger generation. brands such as Nike, Reebok and Fila are the "must have" accessories.

JD Sports continued the impressive form with its maiden set of results yesterday. Pre-tax profits in the six months to 30 September were in line with expectations at £4,35m. This was after an exceptional charge of £650,000 incurred as a result of the Manchester bomb

which damaged four of JD's stores.
Like-for-like sales growth was strong in the half at 19 per cent. However, cur-rent trading has eased back to growth of 9 per cent in the 13 weeks to 31 December. Footwear went off the boil but was more than made up for by a good performance from clothing.

The rapid roll-out of the chain continues with 16 new stores opened in the first half and a further 13 opened since. One surprise was the shift to opening some stores out of town.

The nastier surprise came earlier this week when the OFT said it planned to investigate sports equipment suppliers which prevented retailers from discounting their products.

Though this could destabilise the sector, JJB has already said it does not expect to be affected by the investigation. JD Sports says that only a small proportion of its sales are of sports equipment so the impact should be even less. Even so, the shares shaded another 3.5p lower to 321.5p.

On MeesPierson's full-year forecast of £9m, JD Sports shares trade on a forward rating of 24 - high enough.



## Euro Disney sales show record rise

Magnus Grimond

Euro Disney, operator of the Disneyland Paris theme park, has shrugged aside French economic weakness and the Channel Timnel fire to record a 12 per

cent rise in first-quarter sales. The news was well received by analysts and the shares rose 1.5p to 117.5p yesterday despite a reiteration by the company of November's warning that the current year would be difficult.

Philippe Bourguigton, chair-man, described the sales increase from Fr1.01bn (£110m) to Fr1.13bn in the three months to December as "a satisfying performance, demonstrating our ability to better exploit the potential of our low season".

But, he warned, 1997 remained a challenging year with no price increases and higher financial charges.

The decision to peg entry charges for the current year at last year's level may have a "temporary detrimental impact on margins", the company said. but was aimed at further consolidating and strengthening the position of Disneyland Paris. In April 1995, the theme park slashed entry prices by up to 22 per cent and was rewarded last year with a 9 per cent rise in visitors to a record 11.7 million, a trend that has continued into the first quarter.

The other problem facing the company this year is the gradual unwinding of a Fr13bn restructuring agreement which accompanied a Fr6bn rights issue backed by Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal, the Saudi prince, in 1994. The ending of the standstill agreement with the group's banks has already seen lease and finance charges increase by Fr100m last year and the burden is set to grow by a further Fr200m or so in the current year, the company said. A

further Fr 100m will be added in the 1997-98 financial year. Euro Disney said operating revenues for theme park and associated hotels rose 11.4 per cent to Fr1.12bn in the quarter. The growth was driven by higher attendances and a bigger individual spend in the park and an increase in occupancy rates

in the hotels. Nigel Reed, an analyst at brokers Paribas Capital Markets, said: "Such figures are encour-

Magnus Grimond

Investors reacted unfavourably

to new premium business results

aging. They are up by a bigger percentage increase than I was expecting for this time of year. But the first quarter is a seasonally low period, so any change has a big percentage

He questioned, however, how much Euro Disney had had to spend to achieve these sales increases and suggested that the resulting Fr50m boost to net profits would be wiped out by the higher finance charges this year, assuming no other

changes in costs. Even so, he said he was now more likely to edge up his cur-rent estimate of Fr100m net profits for the group for this year. In November, Euro Disney reported a 77 per cent rise in net profits to Fr202m. "On the face of it, this is en-

couraging news, but not enough to make the shares attractive." Earnings would still be just Fr0.1 or Fr0.2 a share, he said. They have got to run to stand still and to stand still is not enough to support the current share price. They are still overvalued and I would be a seller." The shares peaked at nearly 763p in March 1992.

## Lazards tops cross-border deals

**Peter Rodgers** 

Lazards topped the league table for cross-border bids and deals in Europe last year, but half of the top 10 were US banks, according to annual figures published yesterday.

The drive by US banks has been at the expense of UK banks and integrated European banks. Last year's total of Americans in the top 10 compares with four the year before. Some US investment banks, such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, have spent

the last decade building up their cross-border advisory work in Europe, partly to get advisers in domestic deals

JD Sports (1)

Lonsdale Holdlings (I)

Heminure Alibey (I)

Watson & Philip (F)

(F) - Final (B) - Interior (N) - Nine months

Saville Gordon (1)

The US banks have "effectively a stranglehold on European cross-border mergers and acquisitions advisory work," said Philip Healey, editor of Acquisitions Monthly, which produced the data.

vised on 46 deals worth £12bu.

EP\$

Company Results

42.09m (26.28m) 4.35m (3.6m) 6.75p (5.47p) 18t

10 33m (6 13m) 159,000 (36,000) 0 56p (0,14p) 0.5p

16 60m (15 74m) 2.13m (2.29m) 10.3p (8.3p) 0.5p

33 82m (27 60m) 3 13m (2.90m) 14 3p (13.5p) 7.17p

16 94m (17 92m) 2 65m (2 84m) 1 70p (1 88p) 1.1p (1.1p)

576.60m (497.54m) 18.76m (18.47m) 33 4p (33 1p) 17 5p (16.5p)

303 000 (517,000) -403,000 j-178,000(7,5p (5 1p)

Turnover E Pre-tax E

within European countries. The league table confirms the success of this strategy.

Goldman Sachs, first the year before, slipped to third with more than £10bn.

Goldman Sachs, first the year before, and BZW was 15th.

SBC Warburg, the Swiss

Lazards came top as a result of advising - jointly with the US bank JP Morgan - Carnaud-Metalbox of France during a £3.3bn takeover bid from Crown Cork & Seal of the US, the largest cross-border deal of the year. Lazards finished in sixth place in 1995. In total it ad-

Second came Morgan Stanley of the US, with 26 deals worth more than £11bn, while

JP Morgan was fifth, from 11th the year before. Merrill Lynch was sixth and Lehman Brothers eighth.

Acquisitions Monthly counts Credit Suisse First Boston as an American investment bank, which it said was for consistency with its previous data, bringing the total of Americans in the top 10 to six.

However, a spokeswoman for Credit Suisse said CSFB was now Swiss owned and Swiss registered and should be counted as a European bank.

Scottish Highland Hotels met

the forecasts it made at the time

of last November's flotation, re-

porting pre-tax profits for the

vear to October of £2.13m, a 50

per cent increase on the previ-

ous year. The company's

UK banks had a poor year in Europe, with only Rothschild making it into the top 10, at number nine. Schroders was

City Editor

owned group based in London,

fell from second to seventh

place while Deutsche Morgan

Grenfell was 16th, after eighth Société Générale was the highest placed French bank at 10th, whereas the highest in 1995 was Banque Indosuez at 20th.

Acquisitions Monthly said towards the end of 1995 Merrill Lynch paid attractive salaries to lure experienced staff from Wall Street rivals and from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

The league table seems positive proof that digging deep into one's pocket to hire the right people can have an almost

shares, which were placed at 125p, closed 2.5p higher yes-

Hamish Grossart, chairman.

said: "Following the successful

listing of the company's shares, we are delighted to be an-

nouncing such a strong set of

results. The current year has

terday at 152.5p.

Scottish Highland Hotels profits fling

### Cross-border league table

Financial advisers on European cross-border transactions January -

	POUR ISO, INDIANG	n'i terre ai nerese	Choug
•	Adviser	No of deals	Value £m
.1	Lazard Houses (6*)	46	12,003
. 2	Morgan Stanley (3)	26	11.085
3	Goldman Sachs (1)	23	10,815
4	Credit Suisse First Boston (5)	22	9,980
5	JP Morgan (11)	29	9,386
6	Merrill Lynch (13)	13	8,236
7	SBC Warburg (2)	41	5,896
8	Lehman Brothers (9)	23	4,289
9	Rothschild Group (7)	25	3,907
10	Sociéte Générale (-)	15	3,756
11	Schroders (4)	13	3,743
12	Baring Brothers (19)	14	3,216
13	Kleinwort Benson (17)	13	3,117
14	UBS (18)	10	2,491
17	Banque Paribas (-)	19	2.236
15	BZW (14)	5	2,164
16	Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (8)	39	1,997
18	Robert Reming (16)	10	1,767
19	Hambros Bank (15)	6	1,160
70	Mathinest Markety/	ă	7,100

1995 full-vear rating The above table includes only those advisers acting on two or more transactions

Scottish Highland's bumper announced, although the com-

a full year.

pany said it would have paid 3p

had the shares been listed for

Scottish Highland followed hot

on the heels of the withdrawal

of the planned flotation of

Principal Hotels after a glut of

hotel floats in 1996,

The successful flotation of

profits followed a rise in the

Glasgow-based company's oc-

cupancy rate from 73.4 to 75.5

per cent during the year and a

from £47.78 to £49.83.

ump in the room rate charged

Pro forma earnings per share rose 24 per cent to 10.3p and a dividend of 0.5p was

#### for 1996 announced yesterday by General Accident and Commercial Union, two of the UK's largest composite insurers. Shares in General Accident slipped 18p to 801p, while CU was down 13p at 702.5p.

Insurers fail to

impress City

The slump came despite a 40 per cent rise in annualised new premium income to £184m for last year unveiled by GA, which said pension sales had doubled and all areas had improved. Annualised sales are calculated by adding all new annual premiums and 10 per cent of single, one-off premiums. Annual premium income soared by

101 per cent to £84.8m, while

single premium income was up 12 per cent at £996m. Meanwhile. Commercial Union revealed that annual premium income from its new 1996 life, investment and pen-sions business jumped 22 per cent as contributions from newer territories increased. New annual premium income rose to £253m, while single premiums grew a fifth to

£2.36bn. Total new premium income was 25 per cent higher at £2.89bn.

The figures are part of an improving trend for the UK insurance industry, which has been reporting better new premium income for last year on the back of growing consumer confidence and the reducing impact of regulatory and training requirements introduced in the last few years.

According to Peter Hale, assistant general manager of General Accident Life: "New business growth is well in line with our long-term growth strategy and has been achieved profitably across all business areas. But analysts at Kleinwort

Benson told clients to sell GA shares, moving them down from a hold recommendation, citing the strong price rise over recent weeks and the outlook for the

industry.
HSBC James Capel said it was tive funds to sell the stock because the shares were trading at 114 per cent of net asset value. It was giving similar advice on Commercial Union, now trading at 121 per

cent of net asset value.

# Who will top the premier league?

FT 500. Friday, January 24

Tomorrow the Financial Times will publish FT 500. our annual review of the world's top companies. This 48-page survey will rank by market capitalisation the top 500 companies in the UK, Europe, US, Japan and the world. You will find listings on the leading companies in Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America, Canada, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. It will also include detailed comment and analysis from FT journalists world-wide. So, you'll be able to see at a glance who has gone up, who's gone down and who is in danger of relegation.

No FT, no comment.

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Share spotlight

Tate & Lyle

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JANUARY 1997 • THE INDEPEND

emits bures pe ab-I and was rewarded percentage mereacily h a s per cent rise a record 11.7 milexpecting for this int But the first quarter, that has continued south has bearing t questes. change inc a big for it in oblem facing in this year is the H. questioned be hen much Euro Dispe-Julia de Friabra Sagreement which is a Freib rights to spand to achieve he

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who has gone up. Who No FT, no commen

Profit downgradings leave sour taste at Tate & Lyle

gradings unscriled Tate & Lyle. Rumours filtered into the stock market that the sugar group faced a profits shortfall tollowing an unexpected fall in ping I billion shares. prices of high fructose cornsyrup, a key ingredient in foods and soft drinks.

The decline has occurred at a particularly inflortunate time for Tate as it is thought to be negotiating supply contracts with leading US soft drink groups. NatWest Securities is believed to have cut its profit forecast by about £30m to £270m which would mean little-changed profits this year. Kleinwort Benson also turned negative. The shares, nudging 500p last year, fell 15p to 452p, the worst performance by any

The bitter taste of profit down- New York. Footsie rose 23.6 points to 4,219.1 and the supporting FTSE 250 index gained 16.9 to 4.587. Trading was again heavy with volume top-

There is a growing conviction that interest rates could remain unchanged until after the election. Confirmation that Christmas trading was far from robust merely strengthened

the no-change stance. New York, sharply lower during London opening, failed to have much impact. The fall, coming on top of another overnight peak, largely re-flected the big self-off in IBM as analysts scrambled to downgrade forecasts following disappointing results.

Vodafone, engaged in invest-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

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stock market reporter of the year

ened windfall tax, moved with the tide as UBS suggested they were 15 per cent underpriced. Thames Water surged 30p to a 655p peak, up more than 100p since November, and United Utilities rose 15.5p to

Other utilities were also indifferent to Labour's rhetoric. National Power plugged in a 17.5p gain to 519p and Power-Gen 29.5p to 646p.

Zeneca was given another whirl on Roche takeover ruthe chip. The Tate & Lyle slide was in to dial the right numbers, gain-

subdued session. Nat West decided the time was ripe to take profits, taking a particularly bearish stance on Legal & General off 4.5p to 282.5p, following new business figures. Goldman Sachs said buy Commercal Union, a suggestion which left the shares, after disappointing business figures, 13p off at 702.5p.

Hanson remained firm, 1.75p higher at 93.5p, as its energy demerger neared and Rolls-Royce an SBS Warburg

buy, gained 4p to 24op. Banks had another resolute

ed attention following stories to 35p; there is talk of a cash that Dresdner, the German giant with which Kenmare has bank owning Kleinwort Benson, was looking to buy a fund trading links. Wickes, the struggling do-itmanagement company. Henderson Administration gained

yourself group, perked up a lit-tle as some took the view the 32.5p to 1,277.5p and Mercury rights issue, due to close soon. Asset Management 21p to was attracting a good take-up. The ordinary shares put on 5p to 166.5p and the nil paid Jacques Vert lost some of Tuesday's exuberance following the Littlewoods link, falling 8p to 45.5p, but Verity, ahead rights 5p to 16.5p. Schroders acquired 4 million shares, liftof expected bullish comment ing its stake to 16.47 per cent. on its new sound system, rose 4p to 33.5p.

Critchley, an electronic com-ponent group, slumped 112.5p Pan Andean, the explorer, to 797.5p on the suspicion its gained 3p to 62.5p on seemmargins were under pressure ngly incorrect rumours a from the strength of sterling. drilling statement was being Thomas Jourdan, the Corprepared. The company, which by trouser press mini-conis still examining data collect-ed from last year's dry well, is

preparing its interim announcement, which could be bought 2.8 per cent; investors

☐ Monument Oil & Gas offer from BHP, the Australian

change a copper at a time, were encouraged by a move into little-known Turkemenistan, With Mobil, the US giant, it will belp develop the country's flagging oil industry. There are suggestions of huge oil stocks in Turkemenistan, with some talking

**Taking Stock** 

of 6 billion barrels. One analyst calculated that if the reserves were 1 billion barrels it would be worth 35p a share to Monument.

☐ Fishers International, firm at 14p, is attracting attention. The loss adjuster and claims glomerate, jumped 7.5p to
46p. David Abell, who sold
Suter to Ascot Holdings, has

manager is believed to be
trading well and should profits of £1.7m last trading well and should pro-

4:	60 55 50 45 JFMAMJJASONSJ	sharp contrast to the rest of the stock market which was back in record-breaking form, ig-	added 8.5n to 20no.	SmithKline Beecham had the distinction of being dragged into the speculation, 22-5p higher to 843.5p. Insurances, however, had a	Banks had another resolute session with Royal Bank of Scotland celebrating its Inter- net scoop with a 6.5p gain to 585p. Fund managers attract-	encouraging.	bought 2.8 per cent; investors year with stockbroker Collins connected with Mr Abell have Stewart looking for £2.5m
THE TOWN OF THE TO	THE STATE OF THE S	Column   C		3 <sup>1</sup> 2 58 <sup>1</sup> 4 Corw 3 9 <sup>2</sup> 4 62 <sup>2</sup> 5+ 4 583 2 <sup>1</sup> 2 34 <sup>1</sup> 8 1735 37 <sup>1</sup> 5 1 132 2		### 1995   1995	The percent as a presentage once previous according according to the server property processory according to the percent processory acco

## Public spending reform could make Labour radical in power

The aspect of the shadow Galbraith diagnosed as pri-Chancellor Gordon vate affluence and public Brown's speech earlier squalour. Public services are this week that got the least attention in the headlines could of a shortage of cash. This is turn out to be the most important and distinctive contribution of New Labour to the children in the state sector management of the economy namely its ambitious plans to restructure public spending.

Tax pledges make the best tinder to feed the fires of the election campaign, so Mr Brown's promises not to increase the basic or top rate of income tax and not to extend the VAT base - and whether these pledges meant taxes would have to rise in other As the chart shows, the welfare ways - were the natural focus of interest in his speech. But Labour's tax policy is dictated by two things: the unsatisfactory state of the public finances, and the fact that the Conservatives have suc-cessfully turned income tax rates into a political totem. Between the too-high government borrowing requirement and the painful memories of the "tax bombshell" in the last election campaign, there is of expenditure and left macronot much room for manoeuvre on taxation.

On the other hand, there were signs of strategic rather than tactical thinking in Mr Brown's comments on public Labour government to the existing departmental spending plans in the current financial year and to the existing grand total in 1998/99. At one level this was simply another signal that Labour has definitively abandoned its foolish old idea that the answer to every problem is for the government to spend more money on it. And at this level some of the party's supporters are miffed - what is the point of a Labour government if it is not going to spend

standable. To many people on

straining at the seams because especially obvious in areas such as education, for any parent of knows at first hand about crumbling buildings, shortages of books and the brain drain of good teachers because of in-

adequate pay.

The trouble is that other demands on the public purse have siphoned off resources. The biggest of these has been welfare - the growth of the pension and social security budget. share of total public spending has climbed steadily. For government expenditure to have grown as we would have liked on health and education too, increase by far more than they have. As it is, even with the squeeze on frontline services, excessive government borrow-ing has doubled the national debt, made debt interest payments the fourth biggest item economic management at the mercy of financial market reactions.

Addressing public spending is therefore an imperative for whoever wins the election. Now, this all sounds very much like the Conservatives' message, but the present Government's approach to expenditure cuts has been to tell every department to shave a certain proportion off its budget. Exceptions have depended on short-run political pressures. As



DianeCoyle

Perhaps they will succeed where Mrs Thatcher failed, given that the alternative

- more public squalor and more private provision

of key services – is so unappealing Policy Studies Institute, argued

in a recent paper, no house-holder or business would try to cut costs across the board like that. Rather, they would axe certain areas of spending altogether - cut out holidays, say, or pull out of one particular un-

Mr Brown signalled this week that Labour will try this approach in the public sector. It will try to switch money Pam Meadows, director of the from low- to high-priority Spending Review would start immediately after the election to implement a switch of resources away from welfare and towards education. "Central to Labour's medium-term approach to public spending must be a radical reform of the welface state," the shadow Chancellor announced.

The traditional annual spending round will not take place this year if Labour does win the election. Instead, Mr Brown said, the Cabinet's public expenditure committee, known as EDX, and senior Treasury officials would work on the strategic review which it would start to implement the following year.

There is plentiful academic support for a radical review of priorities. According to Pam Meadows: "The principle is a sound one. Where I'm sceptical is whether you can do it sufficiently quickly to do everything else you want as well." The Institute for Fiscal Stud-

ies also backs the idea in principle. In its Green Budget with investment bank Goldman Sachs last October, it noted that control of public spending had seen social security grow at the expense of health and education. As "superior" goods, demand for health and education services will grow faster the more prosperous we become. The IFS concluded that the only alternative to radical reform was the creeping privatisation of health and education, with people spending their own money to top up increasingly inadequate state

The difficulty, of course, is that to get there, you wouldn't want to start from here. No economist really believes the current spending plans are realistic, and any government is likely to overshoot them. Going beyond meeting tough plans to restructure spending will then involve slashing and axeing entire social security spending programmes. Per-haps New Labour will succeed where Mrs Thatcher failed, given that the alternative more public squalor and more private provision of key ser-

# Halifax goes to ground to replace felled trees

Halifax Building Society is so embarrassed about the 30,000-odd trees that had to be cut down to provide the paper for its record-breaking conversion mailshot that it is paying for 30,000 saplings to be planted in the UK.

The International Monetary

Fund has been weighing into the debate about the future role

of government with a series of

working papers. One of the

most recent assesses the radi-

cal public sector reforms in New

Zealand. These have included

the introduction of commercial-

style accounts into the public sector. New Zealand has re-placed numerical fiscal targets

with a set of five principles of

sound finance (see box). A key

institutional element of the re-

forms has been the creation of

a cabinet committee which

makes the trade-offs between

According to the IMF, this experiment has been a re-

sounding success. The deficit and debt have fallen. Depart-

ments have greater freedom to

manage, and attention has switched from what govern-ment spends to what it gets for

the money.

Mr Brown gave the Labour Party's plans a left-wing gloss

in his speech, citing Aneurin

Bevan's observation that "the

religion of socialism is the lan-guage of priorities". But his un-

derlying message about the need to go back to the draw-

ing board on public expendi-

ture is one that probably

from academic experts and

vices - is so unappealing. If it

does, a Labour government

will be far more radical than

commands wider agreement

even from Conservatives.

competing priorities.

The Halifax Woodland Initiatives kicks off today and involves members of two UK environmental charities, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and Groundwork.

The Halifax mailshot is Royal Mail's largest single job million items in 8 million envelopes, requiring 329,000 mailbags and more than 70,000 staff.

Gren Folwell, Halifax deputy chief executive, says: "I am acutely aware of the amount of paper that will be used during the conversion process and that is why I am thrilled to be involved in the first of a series of Halifax woodland initiatives."

Allied Domecq is helping to get the Vietnamese wine industry back on its feet and has just sold 3,000 cases of the first wine made in the country since the French

colonial days. The British company was granted a licence for a joint venture with a winery in Ninh Thuan province two years ago and brought in British and Australian wine experts to advise on making the new

The province is at the heart of the country's grape-grow-ing area, which already produces around 35,000 tons of grapes a year. A Londonbased spokesman for Allied Domecq says they have used the Cardinal grape to produce three new wines, all light and semi-sweet and designed to appeal to the Vietnamese palate.

"The first is a sparkling wine, the second a white fruity still wine, rather like Chablis, and the third is a red, which tastes a bit like Beaujolais Nouveau," says the spokesman.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Timber: 30,000 trees were cut down for the mailshot

Sadly, he does not think the wines will be available in the UK and he does not know what the wines are called. If they ever do market the stuff over here, one of my colleagues has suggested a possi-ble name: Ho Chi Vin.

John Magill, the partner from accountants Deloitte & Touche who has been investigating the "homes for votes" scandal at Dame Shirley Porter's Westminster City Council, has been promoted.

Deloitte has made him head of its forensic department. For those of you fortunate enough not to have come into contact with such a thing, forensic accountants are used by audit firms to burrow into companies where naughtiness has been discovered. They are widely used to investigate company crashes and corporate fraud and their

evidence is often used in

court.
Mr Magill will continue his work at Westminster, where he was appointed Auditor to the Council in order to investigate the sale of three cemeteries for 15p and allegations

The Westminster probe, it looks at the moment, will run

Sheila Masters, a partner

with KPMG who makes Nico-

la Horlick look shy and retiring, is determined to win the election for vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants this year.

La Masters, who is also a member of the Court of the Bank of England, has tried and failed to be elected to this post a number of times before. She is often described by colleagues as "the woman who runs the country be-cause of her many high-pow-

ered roles. The only obstacle she faces this year is fellow candidate Graham Ward, the affable, rugby-playing former boxing blue and pariner of Price Waterhouse. Mr Ward has also racked up an impressive num-ber of titles, including head of the London Society of Chartered Accountants. In his manifesto Mr Ward sums his philosophy up with the slogan "Team", or "Together Every chartered accountant

Achieves More". Votes from the \$9 council members of the ICA have to be in by 3 February, with the result announced two days later. Personally I'm backing Ms Masters, if only to pep up what is otherwise a notoriously dull organisation.

An ICA insider tells me: The boys are absolutely ter-

John Willcock

the left of the political spectrum it seems obvious that Britain is suffering from what the eminent economist John Kenneth Foreign Exchange Rates 19-65 107-112 152-101 159-114 33-35 2-7 80-85 97-99 70-65 39912 83,7625 4,3573 0,8753 0,7654 4,7167 1,5157 0,8647 2,2680 0,8582

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RICHARD EDMONDSON

It was the habit of Henry

Howard, one of the more com-

plicated members of the great

Catholic family that formerly

the Lake District down through

ticular journey has been less en-

joyable for other inhabitants of

the Cumbrian village recently.

qualifications elsewhere, has

never won a Cheltenham Gold

Cup, and the best horse he has

ever trained appears to en-

counter hidden vipers whenev-

er he travels to Prestbury Park.

Pillar Chase at Cheltenham on

Saturday he will immediately

forfeit the right to be considered

among the great horses. On the

flatlands of the Home Counties

the grey is irresistible, but now

he must show he can also cope

with the undulations that will be

repeated at the Festival, "If he

can't win this he can't win

Gold," was Richards's bald as-

training for over 30 years now.

but Saturday will activate the

most significant nine days of his

career. Addington Boy will run

on the same card as One Man,

while, the following weekend,

Unguided Missile participates

at Sandown in the Agfa Chase

and The Grey Monk travels to

Ireland for the Hennessy Gold

Gordon Richards has been

sessment yesterday.

If One Man does not win the

Gordon Richards, for all his

# es to ground Traditional felled trees Traditional



.000 trees were cut down for the mails ioes not think la Horlick look dy and i be available in ing, is determined to a he does not know election for vice prose the Institute of Change as are called. If market the stuff countants this year. ne of my colauggested a possi-o Chi Vin.

La Masters, who has member of the Count Bank of England her and tailed to be clean the parener this post a number of e ans Defonte & hefore. She is often de has even investiby colleagues as these ontes for soies" who runs the country cause of her many high artie Signey tailaster Chy ered roles. heen promoted. The only obstack to this year is fellow can ಲ ಗಾಡಿತು him Tensic deputy. ಾ ಕಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಬಳಗಾಗಿ

Graham Ward, the rerught playing formers north have blue and partner of his solder with such a terhouse. Mr Wardle. racked up an impressi de Leve unionia ber of titles, including Judician State La Principal of Principal the London Society of has need discover tered Accountants log er arcen eneden manifesto Mr Wardse e militarre dillanga. n's lessoning up with the tampa and their Lum" antigeihat State Seeding chartered according  $\Delta A_{\rm big} \sim M_{\rm big}$ lancarr...<u>N</u>e Notice from the  $w_{\phi\phi}$ in the second members of the leak åtrigir N⊒,.... nuit he Februaring

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Much earlier in his career, Richards had the outstanding Titus Oates and Playlord in the same intake and some observers see this latest crop as evidence of how the waiting for buses effect operates in racing. Richards himself considers serendipity has played only a minor part and that it as much his skill as purchaser and nurturer that has produced the current battery. operandi to ignore horses with won't win."

hidden mileage on the clock. He buys them young and has gath-ered owners around him who are wealthy enough and patient enough to endure a painstaking preparation for the racecourse.

In short, this is archetypal turf tradition as practised by a man lived at Greystoke Castle, to who does not have much time hunt his pack of hounds from for fancy modern ways. Gordon probably thinks colour television the parks and estates of England is newfangled. "Up here we do to Gloucestershire. That parit the proper way, the old-fash-ioned way," he said. "We don't rush them along because, one day, you cause damage when you take short cuts. They fall off the roundabout."

The elements have sculpted out the perfect geography for Richards in his acre of Cumbria just west of Penrith. The myrhad bridle paths and trails of the Greystoke estate take care of

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Hay Dance (Wincanton 1.30) NB: Tidal Force (Huntingdon 1.20)

the walking and trotting requirements of Richards's horses, while another of his dictums is supported by a neck-tilting gallop which only the robust can conquer. "You have got to bring them along gradually and, just as importantly, make sure they're fit before they run," the trainer said.

Richards is 67 this year but he is not yet looking through the Bath chair catalogue. Retirement is a forbidden word in his house while there are horses such as One Man to supervise. The decades have not dulled his competitive edge either, and while he suspects the Cheltenham ground may be on the lively side on Saturday, he is much looking forward to a potential meeting with the Mur-phy's Gold Cup winner, Challenger Du Luc, and the champion trainer, Martin Pipe.

"The ground is good to firm which is not perfect because ideally it should be good for him [One Man]," Richards said, "If The Grey Monk had been in it I wouldn't have run him, and he won't run in the Gold Cup either if the ground is like that. "Old Pipe can run his horse

because I'd like to see a bit of competition. But I wouldn't Certainly it is the trainer's modus run if I was him because he

Collier Bay was due to make

As a result the Agfa may be

"So many other opportunities

City Trial Hurdle, which was run

Bradley was delighted with

to do too much in the ground

his reappearance early last

month but firm ground and

### Collier back to work on the racecourse

Collier Bay returned to the ground. It's the first time he has racecourse for the first time got his too in since 11 March last since he lifted the Champion year. The firm ground has been since he lifted the Champion Hurdle crown last March when more a worry than the frost." he worked on grass after racing at Lingfield yesterday.

Three days after missing the Irish Champion Hurdle with his the abandonment of meetings No 1. Collier Bay's trainer, Jim have held him up. Old, took advantage of the soft conditions to reunite his star Old's only remaining chance of with Graham Bradley for a spin around the Surrey track. "Let's hope we have a bit more

Tracking his stablemate rain. But it wouldn't be the end Simpson from the start at a of the world if he didn't run," steady pace, Collier Bay moved he said. alongside round the final bend and stretched clear over the fi- have been lost. I reckon there nal two furlongs to finish are about eight events, like the around 10 lengths in front. Provided the ground is good at Nottingham, which no longer

or softer, the champion will exist. The only one left is the make his seasonal debut in the Kingwell at Wincanton, but Agfa Hurdic at Sandown a that falls too close to Chelweek on Saturday.
"He's alive, he's sound, no

bandages. Odds on Collier Bay the exercise. "I didn't want him now?" Old said.

"That was lovely. It was just which was very tacky, but that a nice scamper round in the was just about perfect."

Red Rum, the Grand Nation- tree will never be forgotten. al's greatest hero, is to be hon- Martell and ourselves were keen

tenham."

#### **Aintree honours Red Rum**

The Martell Aintree Chase, won last year by Arctic Kins-Martell Red Rum Chase. Worth £40,000, it is the second race on televised by the BBC.

Aintree's managing director, Charles Barnett, said: "Red Rum's achievements at Ain-



oured with a race run in his to maugurate a race in his honame on the day of the big race. nour, and when we discussed the idea with Ginger McCain [his former trainer] we all agreed man, is to be renamed the that a race on National day would be wholly appropriate. This race will ensure that Red this year's card and will be Rum's name is on everyone's lips as we build up to the race he dominated for so many years." City Index have stepped in to give Newmarket's Craven Stakes its first sponsor since 1991. The £30,000-added race. run this year on 17 April, is the first of the major Classic trials. Set The Fashion, winner of last year's Czech St Leger, has had to be put down after breaking a leg on the gallops yesterday. The Dai Williams-trained eight-year-old was cantering in the second statement 5-2 far. 3. Quisible second sec had to be put down after breakpreparation for a run in the Gladstone Claiming Stakes to-day at Lingfield. He was bred and owned by The Queen and trained by Lord Huntingdon until joining Williams in 1995.

#### WETHERBY

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Control is RE of tawn on 10.22 force junction of A58 and A1 ADMISSION: Clab 5.12
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LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: Mrs M Reveley — 17 winners from 167 run-liers gives a success ratio of 28 [46 and a less to a \$1 level stake of \$14.93; G Bichards —27 winners. 113 runorts. 36.9%, ~58.64; D Nicholson — 17 winners. 52 runorts. 52.7%, +512 [0] J Plesforald — 15 winners, 190 runorts, 15.2%, +51.53; EADING JOCKEYN: P Nives — 14 winners, 175 rules, 23.4%, -513.4); £ Wyer — 38 winners, 161 rules, 23.2%, +518.06. A Magater — 23 winners, 80 rules, 24.0%, +5.8 (G. A Dobbin — 16 winners, 96 rules, 15.6%, -515.39.

BLINGPRED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST NEVEN DAYS: Marlingford (2.35) won at Catterick on Salurday LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Ring OF Sparsa (1.35), Cherokee Chief (3.35) & Sparkling Suck (3.35) sen (3.8 miles by O Sherwood from Upper Landsourn, Berks.

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3	3G-F40	DURANO (44) (85) IC H Stevens) I Easterby 6 11 5	P 16wan
4	P	MACIC TIMES (51) (Chris Grant) C Grant 6 11 5	S Stones
5	-	PETRICO (WR Lethnouse) P Beaumont 5 11 5	P Sunnie
ñ	PPROD	PRINCE BALTASAR (677) IG J Alexani N Byerst 8 11 5	O Pears
7	D.OP	SELECTRIC (72) (John Wage) J Wage 6 11 5	6 (144)
ė	1.4	WHIP HAND (62) (Lady Used Neptur) J Fot Gerald 6 11 5	P Carbons
ĕ		BOHRY RIGG (310) (Roman Wal Roong L Lungo 5 11 D	
10	-	MORLE CANONISE U.C. Frewen D.Share 5 11 0	4460
11	47	CROUS STAR (40) (The Raymy stery D Nicholson 4 10 7	
12	~	PUTURES TRADER (Mes Sharm Long) M Homerard 4 to 7	
13		KHALBOHOURA (Sv. John Banna Bri Sr. John Barlow Br. 4 10 7	
14		IGNS OF SPARTA (Darren C Mercer) O Sherwood 4 10 7	.D Bridgeater
		- 14 deciared -	
85	MHP. 44 4	40 Mars Co., 44 4 Mars Co., 44 7 Roses 40 4 Male land 40 4 M	

Benut a hard pulier didn't stop CIRCUS STAR warring a marden on the Flat and, while he needs to suttle to fulfil potential over jumps, he is mare than capable of winning a nonce event such as this. He trished a couple of lengths behind Scremus when they were third recent sorth as this. He hawhed a couple of lengths behind Serenus when they were third and fourth at Nowbury in October and would have given Serenus leasy winter at Forthwell in the meantainer more to do given the run of the roce at Lingfield last finte out. A thuly-run more may hidp Crisis Sur to settle and he could get that if Mag Of Sparita adopts the front arrange facilies that suited him best on the Flot. A 34,000grs buy out of Luca Camtain's yord, lying Of Sparia was one of four Olivor Sherwood entries and commands respect even if his one Flot win ext. In a but three horso madden which he won at 7-1 on. Durano would have beaten Ranginser but for taking at the final flight at Market Risen on his reappearance and was outclassed by Queen Of Spades on a previous with here. Perhaps anchored by top weight in a nosecus' handcap at Sedgefield last month, he looks a bigger threat than most to Circus Stor. While Hand will have benefited from his Arrange earing behind Durano's stablemate, Good Vities, but could still find the botter ex-Flat horses too sharp, while Khatikoum was binhered when he won a madden race on the Flat in Iretand.

Selection: CIRCUS STAR

2.05 WOOLLY MAMMOTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,048 

BETTIME: 8-13 Hatchern Boy, 7-2 Cettic Glast, 4-1 Cholsty, 20-1 Royal Parts, 25-1 Monyesax, Manor

HATCHAM BOY needs to awaid the sort of installed that resulted in him parting company with Adrian Magrate or hempron on Boring Day, but the fact that he med up for that valuable contest wor by Diodata means he's in a different league to most of today's opponents.

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able contest wor by Diodoth means he's at a different lengue to most of locally supponents. Apart from going left at the brial fence, Thatchart Box jumped we're crough when supposs-hild at Newbury and he will be a short price to ash again in this company, even though he might prefer a bit disappointing in a monce handcap at Cattenax or Saturday even it he di-carry 12 stone. However, Delto Gamt improved over hundes often stepped up in desarros bear Spockage Gold over this tipp at Ayri and if he's going to make a name for himself it should be in staying chases. It remains to be seen if Orbit Gunt and Choisty are teady to make a rose of it with Matcham Boy on these terms, but Chosty got his sait together to beat a tig fold at Cattiste nine days ago, communing Arm Sambanu's good season, and that clear round certainly won't have done any harm.

2.35 ARCTIC FOX NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,480

2.15-USF MAGEBRAGE (38) UH WEIST P Lie 7 11 21

2.55-21 RABDOM MARKEST (9) (D) C C Bucky "by M Reves, S 11 11 (Sm). P Meon 3 06521-4 CRITY MANG (47) (N G N Marger 1 tag. 7 11 20 A Dobbin 44 415045 MASTER OF 180Y (400) A 7 STRUCT CRITER 9 12 6 D Parket 5 3010-75 BE BROWE (34) MAS SECTION PROFILE TO PROFILE 7 10 5 R ROWNE 6 0037-70 GAELIC BLUE (3) (Devor Herming) Mrs S Sinds 7 10 0 Recent Class (7 676001 MARKINGTOD (5) Mass I Section 19 10 3 Med 1 1 Medicate (7) 6 5035-9 MONAMENTY MAN (35) (Mrs Narrow Money) E Carre 11 10 0 K Johnston 8 rum wegit: 16st. True hardisap wegits: Gael.: Blue 3st 15th, Martington 9st 12th, Manaught; Man

9st 32: BETTING: 5-4 Random Harvest, 4-1 Marlingford, 5-1 Macgaorge, 13-2 Carity Hang, 8-1 Gaelic Blue, 12-1 Be Brave, 20-1 Master Of Troy, 40-1 Monanghry Man FORM GUIDE The notices that RANDOM HARVEST best art Caricale last week were either below they best, labeled a master outsides when the Man Caricale last week were either below they best,

The norses that RANDOM MARVEST beat at Carlose text week were either below their best, lacked a recent outing or, like the May, Roveley horse, are stall at the norse stage. Stall, Random Harvest could do no more than win comfortably and he's a lightly raced type that can improve again. The other penalised number is Martingford, who put a series of problems beneat him when deadh-eating with Mormale Forts in the norse handicap at Camerick last Saturday. Provided that demanding effort hasts list is mank, Mortingford can make a race of it with Random Harvest at a difference of 25th, it looked as though Mangeorga would have given the useful Around The Galle something to think about had he stayed on his feet at Bangor, but he'd also blundered his way out of contention at Newbury on his reoppeadence and it's difficult to be confident about him gring briay the weight with his jumping a cause for concern. Like Mangeorge, Genetic Blue has talked to get round in nacor his last three chases and his second to Garbo's Boy at Sewcastle is unlikely to amount to much. However, Goole Blue was stall in contention when unsenting his nider four out in Crown Equeny's race at Carlose on Montally and this hand-cap could be more his sort of race. That could also apply to Cattry Hang, a progressive sent when anasteur-noted over hundles and who was up against it when taking on Smith. Dealting here in December.

3.05 SNOW LEDPARD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m Penalty Value £4,338 2-51:21 MONTHAN (23) (2) (Paper Herman), University 7-10-5 R Garden 5:15-21 WEAVER GEORGE (44) (2) (Report Decreases 12) W Step 7-10-2 M Moton 5:241 W EAVER GEORGE (44) (2) (Report Decreases 12) W Step 7-10-2 M Moton 16:2413 RELEGIENT (12) (2) (Report 16:2413 Relegient 16:2413 Rele - 5 declared -

weight 10st. The handcap weight Eastern 155th 76th 15th SETTING: 7-4 Monyman, 5-2 Random Assault, 4-1 Weaver George, 11-2 Full O'Praise, 6-1 Eastern

Monyotem is a nonce taking on much more experienced citizens but may be up to the task as he's doing well at this game and the operation is far from formidable. Monyman's one defeat over fences was at Anthree where he cultim't keep tabs on front-running Down The Feb. That roises the possibility that RANDOM ASSAULT, or perhaps Weaver George, can get the better of Midely Hammond's numer this time. Random Assault tash tipen good enough to lead from start to finish in either race since among from New Zealand but it could simply be a matter of time before we see the best of from. His 'lear Zealand but it is costance was on soft ground but Random Assault surely won't be easily pegged back, if he takes to this faster surface. Three hundle wins on this course in 1994 illustrate Weaver George's kind for Wenterburs on it's a lattle commane that he wasn't need here less season. Perhaps FORM GLIDE this faster surface. Three hundle wins on this course in 1994 flustrate Weaver George's labing for Wetherby, so it's a little surprising that he wasn't their here last season. Perhaps
there weren't many apportunities for him, and perhaps he's more of a Sedgefield horse these
days, having won all three races over fences there. Last month's win suggests Weaver George
is still a force to be reckened with on his day and that is also the case with Full O'Phalae,
who defied 12 stone when successful at Sedgefield in November. Like Monyman, Eastern
Allagic has taken wall to chasing and has won three of his last five. He needs to bounce
back after a below-par run when last of three at Doncaster but made the most of a low
weight in similar races at Haydock and Stratford earlier in the Season.

Selection: RANDOM ASSAULT 3.35 YETI NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,588 121213 SUAS LEAT (72) (C) (Line ) M Davemport) ) M Jefferson 7 11 13... ....A S Smith 6469 CORREGULZIE (271) (Roemes List) N Morgan 6 10 12....... 0450-40 DON'T TELL TOM (9) Libhn Wade' J Wade 7 10 12 ... ....G Cahl 64 GLENBOWER (34) itals S Watersoni M Hammond 5 10 12 ...... 040000 BAY (Ast ) Young 1 Taze 6 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Guest
040000 1960UCGO GOLD (CI) Printeneous tremunoral Ltd: Mrs. L. Williamson 6 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ L O'Hern
005 LARKSHIL (47) Larishal Engineering Ltd: J FiziGeral 6 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ P Carbony 0-0 ONLY A SIOUX (57) (Mrs S Barrett) 1 Turner 5 10 12... COLUMN TO SHOULD [16] [RES | SERTED | LIMINE S DE 12 | LIMINE S DE 12 | W Dowling (7) 10004 PERSIAN GRANGE [A63] (ECOS OF 122 | LIMINE S D. LIMINE S D 

— 20 doctared —

EETTIME: 5-2 Love The Blues, 5-1 Autoricit Whot, 6-1 Cherry Dec, 7-1 Suss Leat, 8-1 Genbower,
10-1 Cherolese Chief, Larhabil, Bobby Genet, 16-1 Don't Yell Tom, 20-1 Sparking Suck, Combookie,
Jose Bay, 25-1 Ten Past Sk, 40-1 others

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Divid Nicholson has yet another fanced runner in Love The Blues, a staying type on the Flut test year who should benefit now she tackes more than two miles over hundles. Love The Blues could well be the answer, but it would be no surbrise if CHERRY DEE was good ond ready because Peter Beaumont has had several winners since the freeze. Cherry Dee is over hundles for the first time after beating all bor Mr Lurpak in a helt of 24 in a NH Flat race at Newcastle on 3 December. Antarctic Wind ran at Newcastle the same day, finishing that of 19 as Cherry Dee's useful stablemate, Beggars Banquet, lought out the finishing that of 19 as Cherry Dee's useful stablemate, Beggars Banquet, lought out the finishing that At The Top (winner since). Softening ground woutdn't have helped Antarcic Wind that day. Suasi Leat will do well to dely List-worth of penalties but at least he has the expense. Whetheres Hertzen hunder synner Bobbe familt makes his debut over hundles. Lustibilities. persence, whereas Hertram bumper winner Bobby Grant makes his debut over hundles. Landrill has already had a nun over jumps, showing a ort of promise in the race won by Ben Chunherin, while Cherokee Childr is from a larmy that has supplied Other Sherwood with action here, while Cherokee Chief is from a family that has supplied Oliver Sherwood with useful winners (Cruising Albaide, Bear Clawi and his only start last season was in the mud

4.05 POLAR BEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,850 added 2m 7f Penalty Value £3,396 314275 DISCO DES MOTTES (FR) (210) (Rober Ogder) G Retards 6 22 0... 10111-0 ERZADIAN (41) (C) (C) S Hall Mrs M Revels 7 11 11 ...... 5400-21 ROBERTY LEA (55) (6) New roles Cornel Link As M Reveley 9 11 1.
5410-11 JOCKS CROSS (75) (Mrs Gall Hartson) G Richards 6 11 0.
53120 DALLY BOY (33) If H Berneth T Esserby 5 10 12. A Dobbis 01-3 THE TOISEACH (64) (T & J Vestey) J Farishaue 6 10 9..... وأنهمك الأر. ....R Supple ....A S Smith 10 10-2331 PHARARE (35) (C) (C F Colombian) P Viscolhause 7 10 0

Minimum weight, 10st, True handicae weight: Wassi Street Brz 12th, Pharare Siz 8th, BETTING: 7-2 The Tokeach, 9-2 Daily Boy, 5-1 Ezzagan, 6-1 Wassi Street, 13-2 Jock's Cross, 8-1 Nick The Beak, 12-1 kzn. 14-1 Roberty Lee, Pharare. 20-1 Disco Des Mottes FORM GUIDE

With Lochnagoun chasing a nati-tink and ridden by Peter Niven, ERZADIAN was very much the stable's second string when topweight for Elburg's race at Cheltenham in mid-December. Sure to have benefited from the outing and from a yard that is toking over nicely, Erzadian has Niven on board this afternoon and is preferred to Many Reviety's other runner, Roberty Lea, whose Towcester win was in a claiming race. Conton Richards also runs two — Jocks Cross surely the pick over Disco Des Mottes, a winning chaser who was reported to have injured himself over fences at Ay in March on his first start since arriving in this country from France. Jocks Cross will find this a good deal tougher than the races he's won at Carlisle and Neurostie but must have a chance in an one promest along with the condictor Deland Newcastle but must have a chance in an open comest, along with the consistent Del-ty Boy and easy Leicester winner Wissels Street. Like Wassl Street, The Tolseach hasn't had much opportunity to show what he can do over hurdles and both horses might improve now they re over a longer rinp. The Tolseach's trainer, James Fanshawe, has had a couple of Flat winners recently, suggesting his horses are migood order, and Adnan Maguire is an interest the best limit.

#### HUNTINGDON

1.20 Sierra Bay 1.50 Lightening Lad 2.20 Bietschhom Bard 2.50 Sir Leonard 3.20 Luke Warm 3.50 AAL EL AAL (nap) 4.20 New Leaf

GOING: Good.

Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yris.

Course is at junction of A1 and A601. Hammydon station (service from Loreion, King's Cross) 1m. ADMISSION: Members \$12, Tottersulls \$8 (Stations \$4); Course \$4. CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Storm Titler (2.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Sam Rockett (2.30) won

at Tamino on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tidal Force (1.20), Crack On (1.00) & Aal El Aal (3.60) have been sent 187 miles by P Hobbs from 1.20 OFFORD "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds

4/12-122 QUESN OF SPADES (54) N INSTON-Dayes 7 11 7 \_\_Doubtled
1 CHEMPHADDE (33) Ms. J Phrem 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ W Marston
0-0 CLINTON (44) K Baley 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ A Thornton
401-053 PERREINS (35) Ms. P 97 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ R Marley
4014PJ QESMANUS (33) D P Prochard 10 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ DP Princhard
24055 HARLEQUIN CHORUS (306) J Out 7 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ G Upton
UF-3\* MEDITYS PORT (41) M Marste 7 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ M Richards
0.00 MEX MANY (77 R Person 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_ T Inerio. 
 20
 10 TBM: FORCE (8) P Hobb: 6 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_M A Fitz

 21
 000-0 BLUE HAVANA (229) Gizema Roe 5 11 0 \_\_\_\_J R Kind

 22
 620-4 TULLOW LADY (40) O Brennen 6 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_M Brennen 6 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_M

- 22 deciated -SETTING: 11-4 Nasona, 5-1 Supreme Charm, 6-1 Cherrymore, 13-2 Sier-ra Bay, 10-1 Tidal Force, 12-1 Clinton, 14-1 Ferrers, 16-1 others

	·
L50	KITTY WARD-THOMAS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds
	GROCYNIG (36) J Griord 8 11 11
	GUNDA (48) N Twiston-Dawes 7 11 6
	AUTHREY BLUE (200) A Turrel 8 11 4 S Michell
	BLAIR CASTLE (427) G Baking 6 11 4B Featon
	CRACK ON (68) (68) P Hibbs 7 11 4
1/230-43	JUST BRUCE (9) Mrs E Heath 8 11 4K Gastle
	LIGHTENENG LAD (75) J King 9 11 4
	MEANMETOO (409) () Wikams 6 11 4
0-OFF	MR MOTIVATOR (8) T Keptly 7 11 4
P/4	WARSPITE (44) P Mooney 7 11 4 S Ryan (5)
102036	WHO IS EQUINAME (437) N Henderson 7 11 4 M A Rizgerald
·	- 11 declared -
TENC: 5-2	Groowing, 7-2 Guinda, 9-2 Crack Da, 5-1 Blair Castle, Light-

ening Lad, 12-1 Who is Equiname, 16-1 others

	-	•
2	2.20	YELLING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLI (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds
ι		MOLLEHAUM LASS (542) Mess M Rowland 9 11 12 Gary Lyon
2		OTTAVIO FARNESE (49) A Hide 5 11 10 P Hid
3	4P-1402	BIETSCHHORN BARD (34) D Gardollo 7 11 9 D Fortt (3
	66630 F	NASARA SOUND (96) B Presce 6 11 6
,	0P62P6*	MARROWFAT LADY (621) N Berry & 11.3
,	2 P3200	RED LIGHT (38)   Jenkins 5 10 13 Osborne
7	0- <del>6</del> P4	GENTLE BREEZE (1) J Gritoro 5 10 13
,	56PP-21	AMBIDECTROUS (35) (D) E Akston 5 10 8 Committee (7
2	644	BAASM (33)   Norton 4 10 1
W	02446/P	RUSTIC GENT (42) Mrs. L. Jessell 9 10 O
Ц	024-000	THE BREWER (48) J Tuck 5 10 0
12	6001	SAM ROCKETT (7) P Mooney 4 10 0 (7ex)
l3	000-004	STORM TIGER (47) S Melor & 10 0 E Husband (3)
14		HEAVENS ABOVE (36) F Musphy 5 10 0
15		DARBNG RYDE (48) ) Smith 6 10 CA Thorseto
16		MR CORDON SEMPETT (38) R Dicken 6 10 0X Abspens [7
7	POP	PERSONN BUTTERFLY (43) R Stronge 5 10 0
		_ 17 darland _ *

Minimum weget: 10st. True handissp weight: Rustic Gent, The Brewer & Sam Rookert 9s 12th, Storm Tiger & Heavens Above 9st 9th, Daring Ryde 9st 8th. Mr Gordon Bermett 9st 7th, Persan Burtarty 9st 2th. BETTIME: 9-4 Bietschivers Burd, 5-1 Sam Rockott, 7-1 Ambidestreus, 10-1 Nagara Sound, 12-1 Storm Tiger, Millenhom Lass, 16-1 Heavens Above

2.50 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m | CQUALIFECK| CLASS D| 25,000 as | 1 | 171001 MEUNIX (37) hts A Perest 6 11 3 | 2 | 6-6 BOOTS N ML (38) G Sating 7 10 10 ... | 3 | (07-2) CLAMONE LAD (65) | King 7 10 10 ... | 4.2.5-5 DURES MEADOW (40) K Baley 7 10 10 ... | 5 | CL-257 HR PICIPPOCKET (23) Mass H Kingre 9 10 10 ... | 6 | 5121-27 SAMT KEYNE (35) D Wilsons 7 10 10 ... | 7 | 67013-3 SIR LEGIORARD (37) O SPECOO 7 10 10 ... | 8 | 331-05 STROKESAMER (35) C Brooks 7 10 10 ... | 9 | 105-7 THE BRIO OTDORNELL (68) F Marrhy 11 10 10 ... | Mr. | Marrhy 11 10 10 ...

10 405-500 THE REVERSED BEST (52) G Baking 9 10 10 ... B For 11 6575-27 THE SHY PADRE (43) Mrs J Petran 8 10 10 ... R For 12 124-222 WEE WINDY (43) Br J G G G S 10 10 ... R For 13 642-574 PEARL EPEE (33) D Notroison 8 10 5 ... R John - 13 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Wee Windy, 5-1 Meinit, Mr Pickpocket, 7-1 Sir Leonard, 8-1 The Sty Padre, 10-1 The Reverend Bert, 12-1 others

3.20 SAPLEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added

2m 5f 110vds 500246 ICANTELYA (51) J Musins 8 11 5 ..... 

er, 8-1 Swan Street, 10-1 low for Life, 12-1 others.

[	3.50	MARCH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds
1	FO-1514	SUBLIME FELLOW (28) (ID) N Henderson 7 12 0
2	PF-5P33	MAN MOOD (FR) (54) C Brooks 6 11 6
3	311-434	IGNALIDI (36) D Gandorfo 8 11 2
4	FF221-2	AAL EL AAL (38) (D) P Hobbs 10 11 1
5	006P-P5	MONDAY CLUB (54) (D) J Tuck 13 10 10
6		THE FLYING FOOTMAN (57) (CO) R Order 11 10 7P Hide
7	14/0440	COUNT BARACHOIS (6) (CD) Mrs E Heath 9 10 0 K Gaulle
		- 7 declared -
И	nimum weig	nz 10st. True handicap weight: Count Barachois 9st 10th.

BETTING 2-1 Man Mood, 5-2 Asi El Asi, 4-1 Monday Club, 7-1 Khalid

4.20 HUNTINGDON MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds

4 MR MOONUGHT (35) C Brook 5 11 5 \_\_\_\_ PEDLAR'S CROSS 6 McCourt 5 11 5 R Sha ROYAL TEAM M Willerson 5 11 5 ..... STONEHENGE SAM J Mulies 5 11 5. TABLORMADE Cart T Forser 5 11 5... \_N Sk TAPPERS KNAPP O Sterwood \$ 11 5. O BLAMELESS (598 Mrs. D Harrer 5 11 0).

#### WINCANTON

**HYPERION** 1.30 Hay Dance 2.00 Stormy Sunset 2.30 D'Naan 3.00 Dromhana 3.30 Newlands-General 4.00 Top

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

Right-hand, galloping course, Run-in of 200yd.

Course is NE of town on B3081. Templecorabe station (service from London, Waterloo) Im. ADMISSION: Members £12.50 (Juniors, 17 to 22 years, \$6.50); Tanternalis 58; Course (and cars to course) 54. (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Show Faith (1.30). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Soldier Mak (2.30) has been sent 174 miles by A flittle from Newmarket, Suffolk, Sakinon Kins (2:30) sem 174 miles by G F J-Houghton from Newmarket, Suffolk.

CLASS D
A P McCo
Descombe (3
11
الشخصيا الي
N Williamser
_R Bellemy \
_R Hughes I
nh 922 128b.
_R Bellem; _R Hugber

BETTING: 2-1 Potestate, 5-2 Key Dance, 11-4 Morstock, 7-1 Show Faith, 12-1 Windward Arions, 14-1 Nestwille Star

2.00 MAURICE LISTER MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) :4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds 

2.30 ELITE RACING NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 4YO 2m 12 R Haghes Her 11 7 Ni Griffiths (7) 6 T Descombe (3) BO IT'S DAWAN IBER P Machel 11.12..... BOLD STATE LADY (50) E Wheeler 11 7.... REVERS MAGE (45) J White 11 6...... SCATHEBURY (5) K Burke 11 6...... SOLDER MAK (42) A Hide 11 6..... 12 D'NAAN (7) (BF) M Pipe 11.3 ......

- 14 deciared -BETTING: 6-4 D'Nam, 7-2 Soldier Mak, 7-1 Lady Magram, Song For Joss, 10-1 El Bardador, 12-1 Tethanin, 14-1 Red Time, 16-1 others

3.00 PAT RUTHVEN & GUY NEXON MEMORIAL AMATEURS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E)

£5,000 3m 1f 11.0yds 

3.30 ARTISTS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,500 added 2m 

4.00 POTTERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m 6f

Abdiman weight: 10st. True hardings weight: 10st. True hardings weight: 10st. True hardings weight: 10st Hopper Sts 10th.
BETTINS: 9-2 General Monthar, 6-1 First Class, 8-1 Stac-Polisids, Top
Sidpper, 10-1 Clod Hopper, Elistening Dawn, Urban Lily, 12-1 others

#### LINGFIELD

HYPERION 1.10 Nakhal 1.40 Suite Factors 2.10 Nashaat 2.40 Sheraz 3.10 Attribute 3.40 Star Talent 4.10 Soviet King

GOING: Standard, STALLS; 5f & 1m - outside; rest - inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE; Low to middle numbers best up to 7f. II Left-hand, course; Equirack surface. II Course is SE of town on R2028, Lingfield station adjoins course, ADMISSION: One enclosure 59, GAE PARE; Club 53; rest free.

BLINKERED PIRST TIME; Sheraz (2.40). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; Soviet King (4.10) won at Southwell on Monday. LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Madonna Da Rossi (2.10) & Dr Edgar (2.40) sept 288m by M Dods from Piercebridge, Dar

1.10 WESON HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,800 added 1m 2f 

1.40 MACMILLAN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 5F

2.10 GLADSTONE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m

9 400-400 MRSS CHARLE (2) A Balley 7 7 12... 10 506-44-0 TRIBLE PET (14) B Guttly 4 7 10..... - 10 sectores -RETIBIG: 9-4 Noshest, 9-2 Wartever's Right, 5-1 Hatta Sunsition, 7-1 Media Express, Commin' Up, 8-1 Madonno De Rossi, 12-1 others

20		THE CLARSACH T Forster 5 11 0S Wymne
21	00-	TUPENRY SMOKE (250) Graeme Ros 5 11 0
22		ARDLEIGH VENTURE M Tomplors 4 10 2
_		- 22 declared -
RET	mag- 2.1	Chasing The Moon, 7-2 King Mole, 4-1 Merry Massuresade,
		f, 12-1 Fiddler's Lesp, Mr Moonlight, 15-1 others
	. NOW LIDE	e' 15-7 Lexiste & Resilt at MANNABUT 13-7 ATIMIA
ΓÆ		WILSON HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II)
-  2	<b>4</b> 40	£2.800 added 1m 2f
_		1 25'000 90060 TU SI
1		<ul> <li>MRSKY BAY (43) D Cosgrove 4 9 11</li></ul>
2		DR EDGAR (14) (D) M Dods 5 9 4 F Norten 5
3		SHERAZ (14) N Tinker 5 9 C
4		RUNIPELSTILTSKIN (13) H Howe 5 8 13
5		FLAGSTAFF (12) K Burke 488
6		HAVANA MISS (13) & Paling 5 & 3 A Clark 6
7		FABULOUS MITOTO (14) (D) M Saunders 7 7 12 N Carilale 7
8	04000-4	LAHK (7) K Noy 4 7 10 B Biggs 8
		- 8 deciared -
		2 Sheraz, 7-2 Dr Edgar, 5-1 Flagstaff, Rumpelstiitskin, 6-1
М,	iky Bay, S	3-1 Labik, 12-1 others
_		DISRAELI MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)
-11	<b>2.10</b>	DISKAELI MARJEN SIAKES (CLASS D)
Ľ		£4,900 added 3YO 7f
1	50-	GULBIS (FR) (96) P Kelleway 9 0
2		ROFFEY SPIRALEY (34) R Hannon 9 D
3		TALISMAN (119) S Dow 9 0
4		ALVILDE (9G) D Coserove 8 9

00- PRINCESS SARARA (34) Sr Mark Prescott 8 9...S San - 3 December -BETTING: 11-4 Talisman, 3-1 Attribute, 5-1 Galibis, Alviide, 6-1 Roffey Sphaney, 7-1 Native Thatch, 12-1 others

3.40 LLOYD GEORGE HANDICAP (CLASS D)
£4,900 added 7f

1 0413-50 DME WILDINGO (22) CD R Holinshed 5 10 0.0 Gailbin (5) 8

2 60114-2 SCSSOR RIGGE (16) (20 BF) Bridge 5 9 10 ... 5 Sanders 6

3 0311-05 TWIN CREEKS (5) (CD) V Some 6 9 4... ... C Rotter 6

4 425-42 SDR TRUENT (7) (CD BF) Mos 6 Netheray 6 9 3... ... P Rotter 6

5 350330 PRISON (5) PLISTI (43) (CD) Ms 1 Subbs 6 8 11 ... Weener 3

6 014-0-3 LANCASHREE (ESDIN (7) (CD) 5 5 ... ... M Wighten 1 B
8 50400-0 TOM MORGAN (15) (CD) R Power 6 8 9... ... M Wighten 1 B
8 50400-0 TOM MORGAN (15) (CD) P Victory 6 8 6... ... T Species 5 V

-8 declared BETTING: 3-1 Sciency Ridge, 7-2 Star Teleon, 4-1 Lancashire Legend, 9
2 Fort Knox, 6-1 Twin Creeks, Jule Velentino, 12-1 others

4.10 THATCHER LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

— 14 deciand — BETTING: 4-1 Hazel, 6-1 Soviet King, in The Money, 8-1 Captain Monavilede, Stolle Da Nord, Hawaji, in Caboots, 12-1 others

Straight Forecast: £26.89. Yno: £48.90. 1.40: 1. SPLENDID THYNE (M A Fizzer-aid) 4-1 jt fav; 2. Sursum Corda 4-1 jt fav; 3. Jakes Justice 14-1. 20 ran. 1½, 11. [7 Casey, Upper Lamboum). Tota: £4.10; £1.80, £2.50, £3.50. Dual Forecast: £13.90.

Computer Straight Forecast: £18.30. Tno: £259.70.

2 tay; 2. One is The Eye 50-1; 3. Arch Asgel 20-1; 21, ren. nk, ½. (Lody Hernes, Latichempton). Tota: £2.90; £1.60, £25.50. £46.00. DF: £42.430. CSF: £156.86. Tro: £191.80. Non Runner: Storm Wind.

2.40: 1. SOPHER MAY (A P McCo) 10-1: 2. Sopresheet 4-1; 3. Anober Speat; 3-1 fav. 34 cm. 4, 3. (I. Montague Hall. Epsom). Tota: 13.20; E2.90; E1.50; E1.50. DP: £20.00. CSF: £46.01. Treast: £143.25. Tric: £22.10. 

2 1.0: 1. BELLA SEDONA (R Durwoody 5-(gr, 2. One in The Bye 50-1; 3. Arch An-CSP: £55.05. Tricast: £535.07. Tric: £65.20. NRs: Theme Arena & Tudor Town.

3.40: 1. BRAVE BUCCANFER (C Ree) 25-3.40: 1. Enstern River 4. Lay 3. Black Church 14-1; 4. Carlingford Lakes 16-1. 13 ran. 2/s. 1/s. (A Turnel, Wantage). Totas £38.20; £4.50, £1.70. £3.80, £2.50. DF: £190.20. CSP: £123.56. Tricast: £1,417.05. Tro. £581.20.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £15,891.71 car-

ned forward to Huntington today). Place 6: £211.64, Place 5: £98.29. WOLVERHAMPTON

1.50: 1. SIOLORIOUGE () Wester) 5-4 fav. 2. Afatan 7-1: 3. Julia's Relative 14-1. 9 ran. 10, 3. (P Hastam, Middleham). Tota: £2.00; £1.10, £2.50, £4.10. DF: £6.10. CSF:

19.92. This: £10.90. NR: Belansiy. 2.20: 1. JREFISEN IS Whitworth) 13-8; 2. Anonym 6-4 fay; 3. Bogart 25-1. 8 rau. nk, 8. (P. Howling, Gotalming). Tota: £2.80; £1.40, £1.10, £5.50. DP: £2.50. CSP: £4.61.

CSF: £143.63. Tricast: £902.90. Tro: £134.40.
3.20: 1. SELBERRY (S Orowne) 5-1; 2. Milling 3-1; 3. Newtone Mr Nicegory 7-1. 8 ran. 11-4 fav Foot Battallon. 1½, 2½, (P Hastam, Middleham). Totar £5.50; £1.50, £1.40, £2.00. Dr. £10.40, CSF: £19.07. Tinead: £97.32.

3.60: 1. SHAKIYR (Flynch) 3-1: 2. Thorn-tous Estate 20-1: 3. Petosida evens fav. Sedgefield abandoned (frost)

2.50: 1. GL LA HUSH (N Adams) 14-1; 2. 10 ran. 7., 11. (R Holinshead, Upper Long-Chemicast 10-1; 3. Napler Star 10-1. 13 don). Vote: £3.70; £1.90, £3.30, £1.70, Dual ran. 4-1 fav Sotonian. 19., 1. (Maryn Forecast: £15.30. CSF: £56.27. Tote Yno:

Newmarker). Tota: £3.30; £1.80, £3.30, £2.60, DF; £38.90, CSF: £20.69. Tricast: £120.80. Tno: £52.80. Placepot: £43.70. Quadpot: £34.10.

Place 6: £58.41. Place 5: £40.37.

- T-

# 'Trainers can talk themselves stupid but in the end it comes down to what the fighter can achieve for himself' The relationship between a do a job. I've sat down and talked than ever. That's what Mike has to get into his head. So you lose. So get into his head. So you lose. So get into his head of the world.

The last time I saw Richie Giachetti for black friends in a Cleveland bar, he was holding forth about the Giachetti almost lost his life from der Giachetti's supervision between advisability of being first in an outbreak of hostilities.

Giachetti spoke from experience. A scar slanting down from the my must inside corner of his left eye to just he said. below his cheekbone is the result of being assaulted with a glass. "Swear to God, I didn't know the guy," I remember him saying. "He comes over, takes a glass and shoves it into my face. I hit him. Then he pulls a knife and tries to stick me. Somehow, I got hold of the knife and stuck

in surgery, learned that his assailant died in hospital. "The cops spoke to mouth, I put in a call to Don King's witnesses and decided it was justi-

a blow with an ice pick that went in just underneath his heart. "The doctor told me that if it wasn't for my muscle tone I would have died,"

What I am coming around to is the news, broken last weekend by The Sun's informed boxing correspondent, Colin Hart, that Giachetti will train Mike Tyson for an attempt, on 3 May, to regain the World Boxing Association heavyweight championship from Evander Holyfield.

A couple of days later, confident Giachetti, who spent seven hours that the engagement would not detraining camp where he was conversing with Tyson. "So you are to-

losing the undisputed title to James "Buster" Douglas and a conviction for rape.

The main reason it was difficult to learn much about Tyson after his release from prison and before coming up against Holyfield last November was that all his fights were short. The performances raised suspicions of decline, especially in application and timing but it took Holyfield's victory to make them apparent.

Habits formed in Tyson under the concentrated drilling of his mentor, the late Cus D'Amato, were no longer evident. "Above all, Mike had stopped jabbing," Giachetti said. Central to the learning process in Another time, when standing up gether again," I said, alluding to the boxing, the jab as demonstrated by



his work with the former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes is a Giachetti trademark.

"We need to improve on that, Mike's head movement, and get him throwing combinations again instead of trying to take guys out with one shot," Giachetti added.

pression, was always prepared to put himself in the fighter's face. "I guess they fell out a lot," Giachetti said, "but that's no bad thing if it gets results."

Tyson's loss to Holyfield confirmed the shortcomings of his corner men. As the crisis deepened, they had no worthwhile advice to offer. The impression was that they would not have found their way across the ring with a guide dog. "I don't want to get into pital," he said. "But in knocking that," Giachetti said. "I'm here to out George he became bigger

more than one form. As long as it nisced, gone over things we worked works they do not have to like each on the last time. It's probably other. Before their acrimonious split, Tyson worked well with Kevin not laying down a harsh regime; it Rooney, probably because isn't going to be a boot camp op-Rooney, to use an American exeration because Mike is at a time in his life when that wouldn't work for him. We'll put in some hard stuff, plateau off, then get going

The psychology Giachetti intends to employ is based on the detona-tion caused by Muhammad Ali when he beat George Foreman in Zaire to regain his title.

"Most everybody thought that Ali was finished, that George Foreman would put him in the hospital," he said. "But in knocking

It's for him to do not me. Trainers can talk themselves stupid but in the end it comes down to what the fighter can achieve for

If the intellectual approach appears to fit uncomfortably on Giachetti's shoulders, make no mistake he is a genuine hard case. "I want to show you a trick," a young heavyweight in Giachetti's care said recently. "I'm not interested in tricks," the 56-year-old Giachetti growled. "I teach tricks to animals not fighters. If you don't do as you're told I'll hit you over the head with a base-

ball bat." The unavoidable impression was

## **England's options** depend on Cork

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Auckland

It will not have the dramatic appeal of the Australia versus West Indies clash going on in Adelaide this weekend, for that is a matter between the top dogs. Nevertheless, England's three-Test series against New Zealand, which begins here tomorrow, has a vital importance of its own, and both sides will be seeking the victory that is needed if cricket is to be kept from fading out of the public

It is a problem that is more acute for Lee Germon and his New Zealand side, who have long lived a stunted existence in the mighty All Black shadow. Very soon, rugby here will be a vear-round concern and cricket must make its impact now, if it is not to be confined to the domain of those things euphemistically described as alternative here in the land of the short, flat vowel.

For that reason New Zealand will be a dangerous side and one not averse to some bold risk taking in order to survive. Indeed last time England toured, five years ago, they deliberately prepared a damp green pitch at Eden Park to try to get back on terms after ing 1-0 down in Christchurch. It backfired and they lost the series 2-0, but they have always risked much to win on home turf.

England's plight is perhaps not so extreme, despite the countrywide feeling that the one-day losses in Zimbabwe were something akin to Armageddon. But even if they were not. Mike Atherton and his men must restore faith by winning this three-match series. A task made more likely by winning here at Eden Park, though that will not be easy should Dominic Cork be unfit to play.

With all the bowling options revolving round Cork - who according to the England coach, David Lloyd, is being given until the morning of the match to batsmen, who pick themselves. have been able to begin the mental preparation so vital to peak occasions such as these. England's build-up in New Zealand may have been close to

perfect, but it is never ideal if some of the bowlers are left wondering whether they will be pulling on spikes or flip-flops, come the morning of the match.

As ever, much will depend on the pitch, which has been cut from a relaid part of the square that has seen just a single oneday game's play. At present the strip is well grassed and very damp, a result of it having been heavily watered on successive evenings: a suggestion that the groundsman is not confident of the surface holding together for the duration of the match. If that is the case, whichever team loses the toss can probably

a whirlwind half-century.

Under Steve Rixon, the mer New South Wales co strap their pads on and prepare for a torrid morning session from seam and swing. Cork's chances of being that

first-morning tormentor are probably no better than fair.

First Test teams NEW ZEALAND (probable): B A Young B A Pocock, A C Perose, S P Flemme, N J Astle, C L Caims, J T C Yaughan, L K Germon (wki, capp), D N Patel: S B Douff, D K Momson. N PRIE. S B DOUR, D'R MOTISON ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (capt), N Y Knight, A I Stewart (Wc), N Hussan, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, C White, R D Y Croft, D Gough, C E W Silverwood, A D Mullaty, P C R Turnell, D G Cork Umpires: S Dunne (New Zealand) and S Bucknor (West Indies). Match referee: P Burge (Australia).

Mind you, he is a resilient per son and if fit will probably head an attack comprising Gough, Mullally, White and Tufnell. If he is unavailable, England ought to take the plunge and play Andy Caddick, though there is a case (an unlikely one given England's traditional caution) for playing both him and Chris Silverwood should the pitch remain grassy and damp. conditions that neither Darren Gough nor Alan Mullally would

perhaps use quite as well. However, only a few days ago Atherton was still considering playing both spinners, although with the rider that Robert Croft would be the player favoured should only one eventually be required. That whole ethos appears to have changed from top to bottom with Phil Tufnell now looking the more likely to go solo and undertake a stock bowler's job into the wind.

It is a role the Middlesex spinner is well suited to and one he

probably does better than Croft. who is more aggressive, and therefore invariably more expensive in his probings.

Mind you, Tufnell's habit of

retrenching, by going around the wicket and exploiting the rough outside leg stump, will not be as easy to fall back upon at Eden Park, with its strange angles and short leg-side boundaries, quirks the burly Inzamam-ul-Haq brilliantly exploited to see Pakistan through to the 1992 World Cup final with Under Steve Rixon, the for-

mer New South Wales coach. New Zealand have raised their confidence and toughened their outlook. Historically, they have always outperformed their worth at home, though a recent drawn series in Pakistan suggests they have the bowling firepower to beat good sides.

Even so they will probably opt for the same make-up as England, and leave out the spinner Mark Haslam, who bowled just five overs to Dipak Patel's 19 in the trial match just finished. Instead they will look to attack England with the new ball swing of Danny Morrison and the gangly Simon Doull, with Chris Cairns as first change and Nathan Asile for support.

Caims could well be the pivotal figure of this series with both home side's chances of beating England lie on his not inconsiderable shoulders. He is the opposition's only really spectacular batsman, and if he performs, England's winter misery may well be compounded further.

Yet all the signs are that this is a different England side from the one skulking around Africa a month ago and there is no doubt that two storming wins in the last 10 days have made their Zimbabwean misadventure a distant memory.

Gone is the "just sucked a sour lime" demeanour so prevalent in Harare. In fact we are almost back to the Mars bar ethic of "work, rest and play" that surfaced in the West Indies three years ago, prior to Ray Illing-worth's reign as chairman of selectors. Then England's buoyant mood was due to the rude form of Atherion and Alec Stewart. A situation that, ominously, is only half true at present.



## Never a dull moment with Doull

here are some people who, contrary to the laws of modern sport, respond to their calling in life later rather than sooner. Simon Doull, New Zealand's opening bowler, is one such person and although he is not old, at least not by county cricket standards. he has been around long enough and experienced enough maladies to make Chris Lewis seem like the indestructible man.

Injury has been the constant feature of Doull's Test career since his debut against Zim-babwe in 1992. First, it was a hamstring problem and then a snagged shoulder that held back his progress. Now, like the England captain, he has a degenerative back condition. though one currently held in check while he enjoys the salad days that usually follow when a man has the acumen to swing the ball both ways. New Zealanders do not like

their heroes to be too fanciful and Doull, now aged 27, is not likely to disappoint on that front. Born in the Pukekohe, a farming area 50 kilometres south of Auckland, he has been described variously as "uncomplicated" and an "unvarnished country lad."

However, according to his New Zealand team-mate Chris Cairns, he is the life and soul of the social committee on tour and completely dedicated to karioke and crooning, a combination that means he appears to know the lyries to every popsong ever likely to be aired in a public place.

Such ephemera suggests a distracted mind and Doull was indeed Jrifting when Steve Rison, the recently appointed New Zealand coach, began to form an unlikely alliance with him. Rixon, an uncompromising Australian used to winning things with his beloved New

Lewis has

**Derek Pringle** on the bowler set for a swinging time with New Zealand

South Wales, suddenly began to make inroads into the bowler's impenetrable interior, something both his predecessors -Glenn Turner and Geoff Howarth - had failed to do. The results have been re-

markable and Doull has gone from someone who first learned his trade in a tent (which is how the more uncharitable describe indoor cricket) to a bowler with

the potential to win Tests. He has done it through a combination of working hard on his fitness (he even trained with a rugby league team when he played for Pudsey in the Yorkshire League) and by learning to swing the ball both ways by adopting a smoother action.

gets him more bounce; a handy equisition when you have a slip cordon waiting for the edge. He has an action not dissimilar to Worcestershire's swing bowler, Phil Newport, except that his bustling run-up has been described by David Lloyd as being like a cross between Gladstone Small and Merv Hughes.

Without a ball in his hand, Doull looks not unlike a stretched version of Andre Agassi: his severe crewcut and sparse goatec beard having ap-parently been cultivated to rid others of the perception that he is some kind of softie. It is an image he now takes with him off the field as well, and one of his Northern Districts team-mates reckons he drips more gold than a pimp when in civvies.

However, he certainly struck the motherlode on the pitch recently in Lahore, when he took

Future of game rests

Although not as quick as 8 for 85 in New Zealand's win Dominic Cork, his 6ft 4in frame over Pakistan. Apparently he swung the ball so much that day that Pakistan provided a different ball for the following scond vic

Richard Hadiee believes he bowls deliveries that will get anyone out, and that he has benefited from not trying to bowl too many different types of balls, an optimism that still afflicts Dar-

ren Gough from time to time. The recent death of his mother forced him to withdraw from England's game against North-em Districts last weekend. Had he played, England would not have romped home as comfortably as they did.

Just as crucially, however, England's batsmen did not get that vital sight of him either, and they as much as anyone will be waiting to see if the real thing matches up to the video nasty they have all been studying for the past couple of days.

#### No strife comes to the Streif

Skiing

Norway's Atle Skaardal recorded the fastest time in an accident-free World Cup downhill training run on the demanding Streif piste in Kitzbühel. Aus-tria, yesterday.

The 3,200 metres long course with a vertical drop of 860 metres, considered one of the most difficult on the Alpine ski circuit, surprisingly claimed no victims on a sunny and mild day. Last year, Norway's overall

World Cup champion Lasse Kjus and the Austrians Andreas Schifferer and Josef Strobl all had to be airlifted to hospital with concussion after crashing heavily during training.

It was a different story yesterday, when the racers were pleased with conditions on the Hahpenkamm mountain, which will host a two-run sprint downhill tomorrow and a regular fulllength downhill on Saturday.

The weather was not as kind to the women downhill skiers as fog forced the cancellation of their two training runs in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, yesterday. The organisers postponed the World Cup race until tomorrow, with the training runs today.

## Woosnam determined to enjoy his new image

ANDY FARRELL reports from the Gold Coast,

It may come as a surprise to the competitors in the Johnnie Walker Classic that they are involved in an event during which "old stereotypes will be challenged and new images produced". Co-sanctioned by both the European and Australasian tours, the tournament has been nominated as a part of the British and Australian governments' newIMAGES

\*We were approached by the British Government to launch the new/MAGES programme and we are honoured the Johnnie Walker Classic has been chosen to be the first of many sporting, cultural and economic interactions between Britain and Australia in 1997." Steven Foxeroft, of United

Distillers, said. Presumably the Ashes Test series next summer was ruled out on the grounds that the image of Mike Atherton holding up the Old Urn is considered too unlikely. That said, vesterday's opening ceremony fea-

tured the Gold Coast branch of the Highland Pipers, the Roulettes, cousins of the Red Arrows, plus a couple of scantily clad Aboriginal gentlemen. Jan Woosnam may like to know that it was the top man, the

Prime Minister, John Major, rather than Ken Schofield, the executive director of the European Tour, who was behind the circuit's opening event moving from its traditional Asian setting to Australia. "I think it is a long way to travel." Woosnam said, "but if you want to win the Order of Merit, you've got to do it."
Woosnam, the defending champion, is free of the back

problems which prevented him challenging Colin Montgomerie for the money list title at the end of last season. "My bad back is something I have to learn to live with. At the end of last year I had three weeks in a row where I had problems and it felt like giving everybody else a three-When I was younger I could

play through the pain, but now

it is better to accept that I will

have problems, make the most

of it and enjoy myself. My

swing will last a lifetime, so if I

can stay off the beer. I might do

all right for plenty more years,"

sufferer, reported no complaints after his trip from the West Coast of America, but John Daly, following only his second top-10 result since winning the 1995 Open at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, did not play in the Pro-Celebrity Shootout at Hope Island yesterday. Daly has a recurrence of a hip injury with a slight infection, but

Fred Couples, a fellow back

will be ready to tee off tomorrow, "It started bothering me two or three weeks ago and then again on the flight over, but I'm taking pain-killers and I've been told I can't do any more damage by playing," he said.

Among the television and sporting stars who did appear were David Campese, Tony Greig and Wayne Gardner.

Montgomerie was partnered by Mark Phillips and his son, Pe-ter, the Scottish schoolboy rugby union international. Phillips Jnr is on a working holiday for the promoters IMG, helping put without doubt the most

pleasant image so far this week was of Ian Baker-Finch, who has

made one cut worldwide since

August 1994, as a winner again, albeit with the help of three

partners in Tuesday's pro-am.

learned his lesson Boxing

Lennox Lewis says will not allow Oliver McCall to repeat what he called a "lucky punch" when they meet in a world title rematch.

The British fighter is determined to make amends for the second-round knockout he suffered against McCall in September 1994, "I looked at the tape a couple of days after the fight and I realised Oliver Me-Call had his eyes closed when he landed that punch [a right to the jawl." he said. "There's no way

he can get lucky again."

Lewis admitted he had contributed to his own downfall, "I committed myself and exposed myself, and he was able to take advantage," he said. The Lewis-McCall rematch on

7 February at the Las Vegas Hilton will be for the World Boxing Council title that became vacant when Mike Tyson was stripped of it after he chose to fight the World Boxing Associ-ation champion Bruce Seldon. Tyson stopped Seldon in the first round, but lost the WBA tithe when he was stopped in the 11th round by Evander Holyfield. Tyson and Holyfield have a rematch on 3 May at Las Vegas,

## solely in clubs' hands Rugby League

Professional clubs are having it spelt out to them that they must finance the development of the game in their areas out of their financial allocation from Rupert Murdoch's Super League.

A strategic development plan from Rugby League headquarters puts the responsibility for the game in established areas squarely on the shoulders of the clubs, leaving the central governing body to concentrate on expansion elsewhere.

They will be expected to provide equipment, personnel and targeted funding (from the News Corporation distributions and/or from Sportsmatched sponsorship deals) for the strengthening of the foundations of the game in their own vicinities," the plan about the

role of the clubs says. Clubs should really need little persuading of the benefits of this approach, although, at a time when the professional and amateur sides of the game may be edging towards reunification. some amateurs may remember the pre-1973 era when clubs were meant to carry out these responsibilities and failed badly in the task.

Boundaries will have to be drawn to separate clubs' spheres of influence. The two clubs out on a limb, Sheffield Eagles and London Broncos, are being told to concentrate on the areas covered by the East Midlands and Southern Counties development associations.

Other proposals in the plan include turning the Alliance competition into one restricted to under-21s and abolishing the restrictions on ex-professionals in the amateur game.

The chairman of the Australian Rugby League, Ken Arthurson, is retiring for health reasons. Arthurson, 67, has led the ARL's fight against the attempted takeover of the game by Super League and his departure further weakens their resistance, In the last three months, the

ARL have lost a crucial court case and seen their chief executive, John Quayle, and now Arthurson retreat from the fray, Last week. Kerry Packer's Channel Nine, Arthurson's main ally in his battle, announced that they had struck a deal with Su-

per League, leaving Arthurson

to wonder aloud whether it was

worth carrying on. He has clear-

ly decided, in view of the strain involved, that it is not.

London Broncos have confirmed they will share the Stoop with Harlequins this season. Harlequins, who borrowed Gary Connolly and Robbie Paul from league this winter, have a capacity of 10,000, which the Broncos' chairman, Barry Maranta, hopes to strain to the limit for their season opener, against the champi-

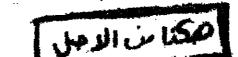
ons. St Helens, on 16 March. Great Britain's captain. Andy Farrell, is over a thigh strain and will lead the national squad in the World Nines in Townsville, Australia next weekend.

> TODAY'S **NUMBER**

16

The number of Ethiopian footballers who yesterday asked for political asylum in Rome. The players went miss-ing in the Italian capital on Sunday, en route for an African Nations Cup game in Morocco,





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NUARY 1997 • THE INDEPENDEN

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Kinnear cleaning up Dons' record Football

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, has admitted he is trying to clean up the Crazy Gang's "bad boy" image and his drive has paid off so far.

The Dons' physical game and old tactics of intimidating the opposition used to mean a long list of yellow cards and sus-pensions. But now Wimbledon boast one of the best disciplinary records in the Premiership - a statistic which Kinnear believes

will help their push for honours. Kinnear said: "We have done ever so well this year as far as saxpensions are concerned because that has also taken a big toll on

us in the past. We've always had one of the worst records but now we have one of the best. It's part of our act we have tried to clean up to make sure we don't lose players in vital areas and teams such as Arsenal are suffering in that respect themselves."

Kinnear believes losing as few players as possible to suspensions could be the key to negotiating the club's increasingly crowded tixture list. The Selhurst Park club are still involved in the two major cup competitions and are fifth in the Premiership with games in hand on the leaders

After watching his side beat Crewe to secure a fourth-round FA Cup tie with the holders,

### **Swedish shopping** trip for Dalglish

Kenny Dalglish has lined up a young Swedish defender, Olaf Mellberg, as his second surprise signing for Newcastle United.

The Under-21 international centre-back was due to fly to Tyneside last night for talks. Swedish sources suggested that Daiglish had spotted Meliberg, who plays for Degerfors, when he was scouting for Rangers.

Mellberg, outstanding for Sweden in November's Under-21 international against Scotland, was due to speak to Rangers about a £1.5m transfer but Ďalglish has now moved in on behalf of his new employers.

Meliberg, like the Portuguese Under-21 defender Raul, who arrived at St James' Park earlier in the week, would be an investment for the future – but his arrival would put pressure on Newcastle's defenders, who have been under heavy criticism.

Mark Robins, Leicester City's Coca-Cola Cup hero, could be on his way to Bolton Wanderers for £400,000. Colin Todd has made an offer for the former Manchester United striker, who scored the winner at Ipswich on Tuesday in a rare appearance for Leicester. The Bolton manager wants Robins to compete with the 38-goal partnership of John McGinlay and Nathan Blake, after failing

with bids for other strikers. Bolton were turned down yesterday by Newcastle's Paul

of Australia when his side beat

South Korea 2-1 in Brisbane

hero, coming off the bench to

score what proved to be the win-

ning goal in the 72nd minute.

Australia beat New Zealand

1-0 in their first game under

Venables on Saturday, and are

now the only unbeaten team in

a hard game, but I was really

pleased with the players. This team has really come on."

Laszlo Nerreth, the England coach, has named a largely unchanged squad for England's penultimate European Championship semi-final round Group B game against Portugal at Newcastle Arena next Wednesday. The England attack will be spearheaded by ex-NBA duo Steve Bucknall and John Amaechi, as they look to pick up their second win of the competition.

Michael Jordan scored an NBA season-high 51 points, including two clutch jumpers in the final 67 seconds, as the Chicago Bulls continued their decade-

Chicago Bulls continued their decade-long dominance of the New York Knicks with an 88-87 victory on Tuesday. NBA: Toronto 118 Minnesota 106; Cherlotte 114 Houston 108; Minnesota 106; Cherlotte 114 Houston 108; Minnesota 188; Chicago 88 New York 87; Indiana 92 Milwauhee 89; Portland 100 LA Cippers 82; Golden State 105 Dal-las 93.

Australia dominated the first

the Four Nations tournament.

The former England coach

Kitson, despite a £2m deal be-ing set up - he wants to stay and prove himself under Kenny Dalglish, Todd is keen to bring someone in quickly, as McGinlay is struggling with a calf injury and he has little in the way of cover for Blake.

Blackburn Rovers and Sunderland are competing for the Polish World Cup striker, Marek Citko. The Rovers chairman, Robert Coar, faxed Widzew Lodz with a new offer vesterday after Blackburn's bid to sign Citko on loan was refused.

Blackburn's caretaker manager. Tony Parkes, said: "The deal we put to them was based around a loan until the end of the season with a view to a permanent transfer, but they have turned it down.'

Sunderland's manager, Peter Reid, is interested if the price does not exceed £3m. Citko is keen to come to England after visiting Blackburn last week, and is prepared to join Sunderland if they offer the same personal terms as Blackburn.

Tony Yeboah's stormy spell at Leeds United could soon be over with a move to VfB Stuttgart. The Bundesliga team have targeted the Ghanaian striker, who was a major success with Eintracht Frankfurt in his previous spell in Germany, and are expected to ask Leeds to take capabilities we can get a result him on loan with a view to a per- as we've got a good squad tomanent deal in the summer.

**Second victory for Venables** 

Terry Venables continued his half, with the midfielder Paul days, but I'm really pleased. We

winning start as the new coach Trimboli setting up Matthew created chances and we defen-

However, South Korea were

The former Millwall striker tack, and the former Leicester thought we did a lot of things

Alistair Edwards was the home goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac pulled better. That is the sort of test

off two excellent saves from Kim

Hyun Soo and Ko Jung Su. In

the second half Edwards ex-

tended Australia's lead before

Ha Seok Ju pulled one back for

Zealand 3-0. Australia play

on New Zealand in the match-

es that conclude the tournament

in Sydney on Saturday. Venables added: "It's early

GOLD FLAKE OPEN (Hyderabad) Semi-fi-mais: M Rusself (Eng. bt.) Wilhamson (Eng. 5-0. P Gichnst (Eng. bt.G. Sathi (Ind.) 5-0.

Adrian Morgan, formerly one of Britain's leading referees, has died suddenly at the age of 68. An "X star official for the British Boring Board of Control for a decade before his retirement in 1993,

Morgan officiated all over the world for the World Boxing Council and the Eu-ropean Boxing Union.

FRIENDLY: Rath Rovers 1 Bayern Munich O.

In yesterday's other game in

South Korea.

said: "We knew we were in for Norway and South Korea take

Bingley for the opening goal. ded well against a very good side.

dangerous on the counter-at- ing sessions together, and I

Brisbane, Norway beat New A threat by the trade union

ford on Saturday, Kinnear said: We've got a lot of games coming up and we're a victim of our own success in some respects.

"I'm not boasting about that in any way but it's a fact that we are almost on three games a week. It's a frightening thought injury-wise and also on the fitness of the players. We can't afford to get any more injuries or let anyone go.

They face United again at Old Trafford next Wednesday in a Premiership game where victory would vastly improve Wimbledon's chances of a European place. And the Dons then face three games with Leicester in quick succession with two legs of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and a chance of revenge for last week's Premiership defeat at Filbert Street in between.

Kinnear is especially keen for the return of two defenders, Alan Kimble and Ben Thatcher. Kimble has pulled a hamstring and will be out for a month. England Under-21 player Thatcher has been out for six weeks.

Kinnear said: "I'm desperate to get neople like Kimble and Thatcher back, to pump up the squad. I've lost both my leftbacks so I've got Brian McAllister in there who's switched from being a centre-half to being a left-back."

Kinnear knows his side will have to produce a much better performance than they did against Crewe, who they strug-gled to kill off despite a goal after just 12 minutes. He said: "It's going to be extremely tough for us against United because they are arguably the best club in England at the moment. They are the benchmark.

"But you have got to go up there, be brave and give it your best shot. That's exactly what we've done in the past and that's exactly what we will do again. We've got plenty to look forward to and it's just a case of working our socks off at the moment."

Tuesday night's man of the match, Robbie Earle, agreed that Wimbledon will now assume their traditional role of underdogs for one of the few times this season. He said: "It is a daunting task but the pressure will be off us because we are not expected to get a result. But we know if we play to our

"We've only had four train-

we will face if we want to get to

the World Cup." Australia must

win the Oceania qualifying

group before a play-off against

the fourth-best Asian side to

earn a place at next year's

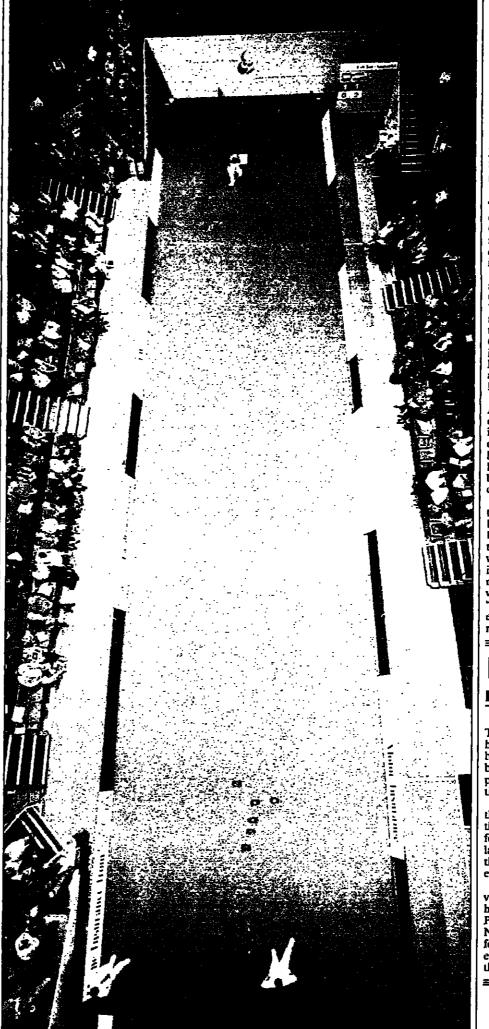
representing Australia's players

to take strike action this week-

tralia, Venables' employers.

Joe Calzaghe relaunched his super-mid-

develght career with an easy second-round victory in Bristol on Tuesday night against the Midlands champion, Car-



Scotland's Hugh Duff draws to the forehand in his match against Mark Bantock, the

### **Duff proves too tough for Bantock**

Scotland's Hugh Duff endured some anxious moments in the first round of the Saga World Indoor Singles Championship at Preston yesterday before beating the English champion. Mark ends to record victory.

end as an extension of a pay dis-Bantock, in four sets. pute was withdrawn after Duff, last year's beaten fidiscussions with Soccer Aus-

7-5 and then took the second 7-4, despite having to take a break because of the flu bug he

has been suffering from. Bantock fought back to keep the game alive taking the third 7-1, but Duff dominated the fourth, winning 7-2 in seven

"It was a very hard game. Considering it was Mark's first nalist, had to come from 4-5 appearance in Preston he down to claim the opening set played exceptionally well and

Steve Crowther, the Superleague deputy chairman, has resigned because of the pressure of other work commitments.

Crowther, who is also general manager of the Sheffield Steelers, will continue on the Superieague's board. superieague's breach 5 Manchester Storm 3.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Stough Jess 1 Solihuli Blaza 2 (a).

ICC SIGHTING

EIROPEAN CHARPONSHIPS (Berg), Paris):
Pairs short programme: 1 M Ercole and A
Bushov (Rus) 0.5; 2 M Wiccas and 1 Souer (San
1.0; 3 S Abatol and S Bernada (Fr) 1.5; 68; 9
1. Rogers and Matried (EB) 4.5. Men's short pro-gram: 1 I hulli (Rus) 0.5; 2 V Engrodnuk (Ur)
1.0; 3 A Viscoprio (Cer) 1.5; 4 P Candelor (Fr)
2.0; 5 A Vinguin (Rus) 2.5; 8 A Urmanov (Rus)
3.0; 7 V Piuto (Ur) 3.5; 8 D Orbbenio (Ur) 4.0;
9) Passiveth (Auri) 4.5; 10 S Coustis (EB) 5.0.

EB: 18 N Wison 8.0.

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts 55,779.75, 23 594.25 23, 22 56.10, 22 52.40. Half-time: 23.554.50. Four drame 56.25. Test homes 1209.15. Fine aways 23.03.1.00 Xmag extra game prizes: Six corract 162.500.00, five 1364.30, four 16.70.

BIGITENS: Treble chance: 24pts £173.00, 23 £4,35. Four draws £2.40. Five aways £28.10. Eight homes £102.75.

VERNONS: Treble charact: 24pts £2,016.35, 23 £39.20, 22 £6.75. Super shots £141.50. Premier 10 £122.00.

Pools dividends

produced a lot of good pressure bowls," Duff said.

England's Gary Smith also survived a scare before edging through with a four-set win over the Hong Kong qualifier Tony Tong. Smith dropped the opening set 5-7, but quickly hit back taking the second in just three ends. The No 13 seed turned around a 5-2 deficit in the third set to win it 7-5, and then cruised through in the fourth.

## **Buckingham's** boat makes a dream start

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Key West, Florida

Tony Buckingham, the owner of the mid-sized 40-footer Easy Oars in this year's British Admiral's Cup team, has made a dream start to his first major international campaign here. Steered by Andy Beadsworth

and crewed by the likes of Chris Mason, Geoff Stagg, Lou Varney, Vincent Geake and, for this regatta, Paul Standbridge, the purchase of what was David Clarke's Pigs in Space is looking like money well spent, following a second, third and then a first place at the Key West Race Week.

Stagg, a leading light in the Annapolis-based organisation of the designer Bruce Farr, insists that there are many opportunities to improve the poat's performance from what has been virtually a mothballed condition following changes in the design rules.

Also still feeling good with themselves is the crew of the British team Mumm 36 Bradamante. That is despite the poor rounding of a mark, which dumped them to eighth in the first race. They then missed the top turning mark when leading the second. "That's the sort of thing we can easily work out," the helmsman, John Merricks, an 18th overall.

Olympic silver medallist of last summer, said.

They, too, are looking at a new rig and sails to improve perfor-mance further in the SORC regatta staged in Miami next month, and also on the European circuit. They then return to Britain for a pre-Admiral's Cup World Championship in Lyming

Still finding their feet is the crew of the big boat in the team trio, Graham Walker's 45-foot Indulgence. Reading the combination of currents, rip tides and the bends in wind direction they generate has proved difficult.

They will lead an extensive sail development programme. masterminded for all three boats by Grant Spanhake. They have also, according to the helmsman Glyn Charles, to match skills developed in a stiff breeze to the lighter conditions of south Florida.

Keeping up the Italian connection, and also having some trouble with rounding a mark, was Giorgio Zuccoli. He beat the veteran Keith Musto for the right to represent Europe in the Melges 24s.

There is no room for error in such a tightly fought class and following Musto's retirement while running third in the second race of the day, it will take some luck as well as grit to fight his way back from

#### France call foul on Irish

Rugby Union

The French rugby federation has asked the Irish Rugby Football Union to look into possible foul play by three Irish players in Saturday's Five Naions' match in Dublin.

The Irish have already asked the French to take action over their prop Franck Tournaire for kicking Allen Clarke, Ireland's replacement booker, in the head. Tournaire is expected to be suspended today. However, the French claim

video evidence shows that the hooker Keith Wood, the lock Paddy Johns and the scrum-half Niall Hogan all went unpunished for foul play. The French federation said it did not want to cite the players under disciplinary

procedures, but preferred to ask the IRFU to take whatever action it deemed necessary. Scotland A yesterday made

two changes to the team that beat Wales A 56-11 last Friday for the match against England A at the Stoop on Friday week. Murray Wallace, dropped from the senior side, comes in at open-side flanker at the expense of Simon Holmes and Duncan Hodge comes in at inside centre in place of Paul Rouse.

In the case of Hodge, justice has been done. The Watsonian was denied the chance of playing at stand-off for the A team after he was brought into the senior squad last week as cover for Gregor Townsend. Scott Welsh filled the A team's stand-off berth and did so with perhaps his best display at this level.

### **Kulik's short success**

**Ice Skating** 

Russia's Ilya Kulik and Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, of Ukraine, put poor qualifying displays behind them to dominate the men's short programme at the European Figure Skating Champi-

onships in Paris yesterday. Kulik, champion in 1995, and year, called on their experience to snatch the top two places after skating far below their best in qualifying on Sunday.

qualifying group, both per-formed the key element of the short programme - the jump combination - superbly, each

Latvian skating for Germany, sprang a surprise by taking third place, with French favourite Philippe Candeloro fourth. The Russians Alexei Yagudin and Olympic champion Alexei

completing a difficult triple axel linked with a triple toe loop.

Andrei Vlascenko, a former

Urmanov, who missed his com-bination, held fifth and sixth Zagorodniuk, champion last places followed by the Ukrainians Evgeny Pliuta and former champion Dmitry Dmitrenko. The Briton Steven Cousins,

fourth last year, managed only Fourth and sixth in their 10th place, six positions ahead of his team-mate Neil Wilson whom he must beat here to earn his country's only place in the World Championships in March.

#### SPORTING DIGEST

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE RE-ARRANGED DATES: Tue 18 Feb: Stockport v York Inforn 1 Jan. The 25 Feb: Bristol Rovers v Plymouth Inforn 1 Jan. Fri 28 Mart Barnsley v West Bromwith (from 29 Mar). Kent yesterday parted company with their coach, Daryl Foster, with the 58-year-old giving personal and family reasons for his retirement. Foster, who had been with the county since 1991, had one year of his five-year contract remaining. Hockey

year of his five-year contract remaining. Brian McMillan, the South African all-rounder, has been fined £450 for manhandling an abusive Indian spec-tator at the close of play on Saturday, the third day of South Africa's drawn test with India in Johannesburg. 'He was abusing me in front of my wife and the wife of Indian opener Woorkerl Raman. After being asked to stoo be continued. After being asked to stop he continued with the verbei abuse so I pushed him against the combi. But I did not punch him," McMillan said .

in the future," the committee's chalima Brian Cookson said, This is an excit-ing time for the sport with new oppor-tunities opening up that could have been

Blackburn Rovers have agreed to allow their highly rated 19-year-old England youth international defender, Marlon Broomes, to join Swindon on a month's

Norwich have signed the Tottenham cen-tre-half Kevin Scott on a month's loan. The 30-year-old defender has lust fin-The former Leeds and Swansea goal-keeper Glan Letheran has been appointed as team manager of the Welsh women's international team.

remor 10 1.22.00.
ZETTERS: Trebie charco: 24pts £563.15, 23
57.10, 22 0.80p. First Eight 15pts £145.40,
14 £4.15, 13 0.85. Four everys £158.00.
Eight bornes £11.00, Four draws £7.00. Super Seven £150.40. Lucky numbers 25 33
12 31 28 38. as a director of AFC Bournemouth. Guillermo Canedo, head of the organ-sing committees for the 1970 and 1986 World Cups in Mexico and a Fifa vice president, died yesterday at the age of

Rug by Union

SCOTLAND A (v England A, The Stoop, 21. January; D Lee Wetsonars), J Craig (West of Scotland), A Tall (West calls), D Hodge (Wetsonars), C Glasgow (Henor's FP), S Weish (Hawcit), A Micol (Bash), G Graham (Henosather, G Bollonia (West of Scotland), P Wright (Heinos), S Compell Richross), S Grines (Wetsonaros), E Peters (Both), C Hogg (Meinose, capit), M Wallace (GHA. Replacements: S Lang (Henots PP), P Rocese (Durden HSFP), D Patterson (Henots FP), C Mather (Walsonards), J Mansson (String Dourly), J Hay (Henots) Lack of sponsorship has forced the Indian Hockey Federation to postpone indefinitely the annual Indian Gandhi Gold Cup men's tournament scheduled for part inporth.

NHL: NY Rangas 4 Edmonton 4 (ot): Philadelphia 3 Dallas 3 vot; Pritsburgh 4 Calgary 2; Tompa Boy 3 Colorado 2 (ot): New Jersey 4 Los Angeles 1.

**SNOW REPORT** 

5-6); Kotonu (6-5) bt Yamato (4-7); Genyu (6-5) bt Deshi (6-5); Tochecuma (6-3) bt Shikehma (7-4); Kotonuzuma (6-5) bt Deshisho (5-6); Rido (7-4) bt Misteathigi (4-7); Hamanoshima (5-6) bt Misteami (4-7); Kasnosho (5-6) bt Aggyarra (5-6); Teno (6-5) bt Hignosumi (3-8); Ogmshiki (4-7) bt Tochinosekia (2-9); Kenko (5-6) bt Assingutaika (3-8); Nyokashuzan (5-6) bt Akmoshima (4-7); Kotonchiki (4-7) bt Tamakasuga (3-8); Tekanofica (3-8) bt Kasnoshima (4-7); Kotonchini (4-7); Welkendhuma (11-0) bt Assingweie (3-8); Tekanofica (3-8); T

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE Super Di-vision semi-final (Slough, Tuesday): Ges-many bt England 4-0. (Eng names first):

A Holt lost to E Schall 15-21 9-21; G Schwarz lost to J Schopp 6-21 6-21; N Deaton lost to C Bottcher 21-19 14-21 10-21; Holt and Deaton lost to Schall and Schopp 21-23

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Men's singles, quarter-finale: T MUSTER (Aut) bt G IVANISED (Cros) 6-4 6-2 6-3; P SAMPRAS (US) bt A COSTA (Sp) 6-3 6-7 6-1 3-6 6-2.

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# same rests lubs' hands

FOOTBALL RESULTS rborough Uto 2 Walsall O: Swansea City Yesterday INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Brisbane): Australia 2 (Bingley 37, Edwards 72) South Ko-es 1 (Ha Seok Ju 78); Norwey 3 (Skammersud 60, Zoncich og 79, Flo 84) New Zealand 0. BELL'S SCOTTSH LEASUE Premier Division: Motherweil 2 Klimarnock O. Second Division: Ayr 2 Strannaer C; Cyde 1 Brechin 1; Dum-berton O Starthousemur 2. Third Division:

Toesday's late results FA CUP Third round: Gikingham D Derby 2 (Derby at name to Notis County or Aston Viller, Unton 1 Bolton 1 (replay Salurday; winness at name to Chesterfield; Watland 2 Oxford Utid O (Watland away to Brantiand or Manchester Clay). Third-cound replay; Wintblock of Come O (Wimbledon away to Manchester Indiana.

COCA-COLA CUP Quarter-finat: Ipswch 0 Lacester 1 (Lacester to play Wimbledon in Imo-leg semi-final). MATIONWEDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Second Division: Brentfort O Bristol Rovers O. Post-poned: Bury v Strewsbury. Third Division: Cambridge 3 Exeter 2: Leyton Orient 1 Wigan 2: Mansfield 2 Ooncaster O.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHEELD Northern sec-tion account round: York City 1 Preston North End O. Southern section second round:

Football

NTS SCOTTISH CUP

nian v Abendees (A.O)

SEMBON WESSEX LEAGUE: Whechurch Utd v Semention Health Harlequins (7.30).

PONTINE LEAGUE First Division: Sunderland V Notis County (7.0) for Durham Cityl. Second Division: Manchester City v Shrewsbury Youn

FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Southend United v Wasterd (7.45).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

1 Slough Town 1; Grantham U Byun operans O; Halesowen Town D Southport 1; Hayes O Yeout Town 1.

FA CARLSBERG WASE Fourth-round replayer. North Ferrity 1 Starmford O; Whitstable 2 Concord Rangers 1 (880).

ICSS LEAGUE Third Divisions Flactowell Heath 1 Northwood 1. Guardian insurance Cupthild round: Braintne 3 Bitlericky 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Gravesand & Northilect 2 Hastings O. Midland Divisions Bodworth Utd 1 Stafford Rangers 1. WINSTONE EAD KENT LEAGUE First Division A Thannesmead Town O; Turbridge Wells 1 Cray Wanderers 2. UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First D vision: Languey Sports 1 Hallstram Town 3: Pagham 1 Selsey 1. John O'Hara Leegse Cup second round: Oakwood 1 Ringmer 2. LEAGUE OF WALES CUP Quarter-final first leg: Barry Town 3 Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff 1: Lighsandirad 1 Coemarton Town 1; Newtown JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Harwich & Parkeston 1 Tutree 3. O Ton Pentre O: Rhyl O Banstor City O.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Wimbome 2

nouth FC 1.

Bournemouth FC 1.

SCREWFOX DRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Barnscapie Town 1 Taurion Town 4.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Presideas: Cap Fourth round: Baiper Town 3 Menby MW 0; Huclenell Town 1 Denaby Utd 0.

Lasgine Cap third-round replay: Pricering
Town 2 Hall Road Rangers 0.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divdialors Memorate Town 1 Factured Hanjey

FA YOUTH CUP Third rounds Covenuy City O Transnere Rovers 1. Third-round replay: Blackburn Rovers 2 Bury 0. Debiation Hovers 2 bury 0.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Sheffield Wednesday 0 Everton 0. First DiVisions; Aston Villa 2 Port Vale 0. Second DiVisions; Grintsby Town 1 Rotherham Utd 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First

IRISH LEASUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP First round first log Ornigh 1 Portadown 3.

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: St Patrick's Athletic 1 Shel-

against the Midands champion, Car-los Christe, who was knocked down four times, then counted out when floored for a fifth. Christie, who was a late re-placement for the Spaniard Jose Bay-on, was not the challenge that Cabzaghe had hoped for. This was just too easy, i like to test myself and enjoy my box-ing. As soon as I ht him, I knew he would fall. In a wey, It was a no-win struction, he said. PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Whitcharch SC, bristol, Tuesday): 4-rd heavyweight: G Wed-PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Whiteharth SC, Bristot), (meaday): 4-rd beenyweight: G Wid-lake (Minchesd) bt J Dawdson (Swansea) rsi 2rd, 6-rd inkidieweight: D Dormgon (Bristot) bt P Michael (Southempton) st 2nd, 4-rd weitenweight: J Simmors (Pymputh) bt P Mice (Matton) ps. 12-rd weater WSC internetional middleweight: champlomathe G Catley (Bristot) bt G Bocco (Berni) rd 4th. 10-rd supermiddleweight: J Catzaghe (Newbridge) bt C Christe (Burungham) ho 2nd.

Almost three months after the executive of the British Cycling Federation were accused "of failing to operate correctly" by the Sports Council, the Federation, with the Council's support, is calling a spe-cial national meeting on 15 March to re-but criticism that the decision to put an emergency management committee in charge last November was unconstitu-tional. "We want to ensure that every-thing is in order and cannot be challenged

Football

ished a month on loan at Charlton. The former Arsenal and Portsmouth de-fender Roy Pack, 50, has been named

Rallying
MORE CARLO RALLY Third day (after 12 timed stages): Overall positions: 1 1 Moistner (First Missubsituations) 1 1 Moistner (First Missubsituations) 31 9min 17 sec; 2 P Latte (No Subaru Impreza + 24 sec; 3 C Seinz (Son Ford Except + 27 s. 4 A Schwarz (Ger) Ford Except + 3 min 43 sec; 5 U Missel (Ger) Missubishi Lancer + 8:31.

sport



# Billionaire invests £40m in Rangers

**Never a Doull moment** 

Derek Pringle on New Zealand's

opening bowler, page 24

#### Football

NICK DUXBURY AND MAGNUS GRIMOND

The biggest single investment in British football yesterday saw the eighth-richest man in Britain plough £40m into Rangers.

The Bahamas-based Joe Lewis, who has a £1bn fortune, has bought a 25 per cent stake to help launch the Glasgow club towards the new millennium and a place in the European Super League that everyone

agrees is just around the corner. The Rangers chairman, David Murray, retains a controlling interest, but has diluted his holding from 82 to 61 per cent, with the £40m to go towards strengthening the team. the building of a hotel and banqueting suites and a number leisure complex at Ibrox and a of themed restaurants, such as

American football, he is not

known to be a sports fan. In the last few years he has the London art market, building up a 29 per cent stake in Christie's International, the

The genesis of his fortune was a restaurant business built up by his father, which included the

## **Pearce to stay** at Forest helm

RUPERT METCALF

Stuart Pearce has agreed to stay in charge at Nottingham Forest for the rest of the season. The 34-year-old England full-back has hinted that he would like the job on a full-time basis - but he is aware that his future will not be settled before the club's extraordinary general meeting next month.

Since Pearce became caretaker player-manager after the departure of Frank Clark, Forest have taken 13 out of 18 points to move out of the Premiership relegation zone. "Stuart has agreed to stay with us until the end of the season," Irving Korn, the Forest chairman. said after talks with Pearce yesterday, "but the long-term sit-

uation hinges on the takeover." The various takeover offers on the table will be considered by the club's 203 shareholders at the EGM on 24 February.
"We'll have to wait until the new owners come in and then sit to fly to Harare this weekend to down and start further talks." Korn added, after hearing what Pearce wants from the club if he is to continue as manager. "We've had preliminary talks, which have gone well, and I will put Stuart's proposals to the

board on Friday." Pearce left the City Ground without comment. West Bromwich Albion have

training ground. The 59-year-old Lewis, an en-

thusiastic gambler who shuns publicity, bases himself in a £15m mansion in the Bahamas, but also moves between homes Florida, Buenos Aires and London. Apart from what is said to be a fondness for betting on

emerged as a large investor in auctioneers.

Buckley. He had been in charge

manager of Grimsby Town. Albion, 17th in the First Division, have won only seven League games this season. Buckley had been warned by the chairman, Tony Hale, that results had to improve following the club's stock market flotation. Arthur Mann, Buckley's assistant, becomes caretaker manager. He will be aided by the

at The Hawthorns since Octo-

ber 1994, after six years as

coach, John Trewick. Stoke City have turned down a £2.1m offer from their First Division rivals, Queen's Park Rangers, for their top scorer, Mike Sheron. Crystal Palace have completed the signing of the 34-year-old Arsenal defender Andy Linighan for an undisclosed fee.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Plymouth Argyle goalkeeper who is on trial at Winchester Crown Court on match-fixing charges, has been given permission by the judge presiding over the case play for Zimbabwe against Ghana in an African Nations Cup qualifier. He is due to leave

London tonight. Reports in the Netherlands suggest that Morten Olsen, the former Danish international defender and coach at Brondby and FC Cologne, is to succeed Louis van Gaal as the Ajax dismissed their manager. Alan coach this summer.

The Beefeater.

The announcement took the value of Rangers soaring to a reputed £160m, with the club looking to follow Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur on to the Stock Market before the end of the century.

"I have consistently stated that I do not believe it is appropriate to float Rangers until the uncertainties arising from Bosman, pay-per-view television and the expansion of Euro-pean club competitions are re-solved," Murray said.

"I am delighted to have raised £40m of new capital from a single investor at this time, providing us with the financial strength to develop the club further while these changes take effect. I believe that Rangers is now in a much stronger position to realise our ambitions for footballing and commercial success." Murray bought control of

1988 and has seen the team win the Scottish championship y season since. In the year to May 31, 1996, Rangers achieved a turnover in excess of £30m and a profit of £7.1m. While the haves were cele-

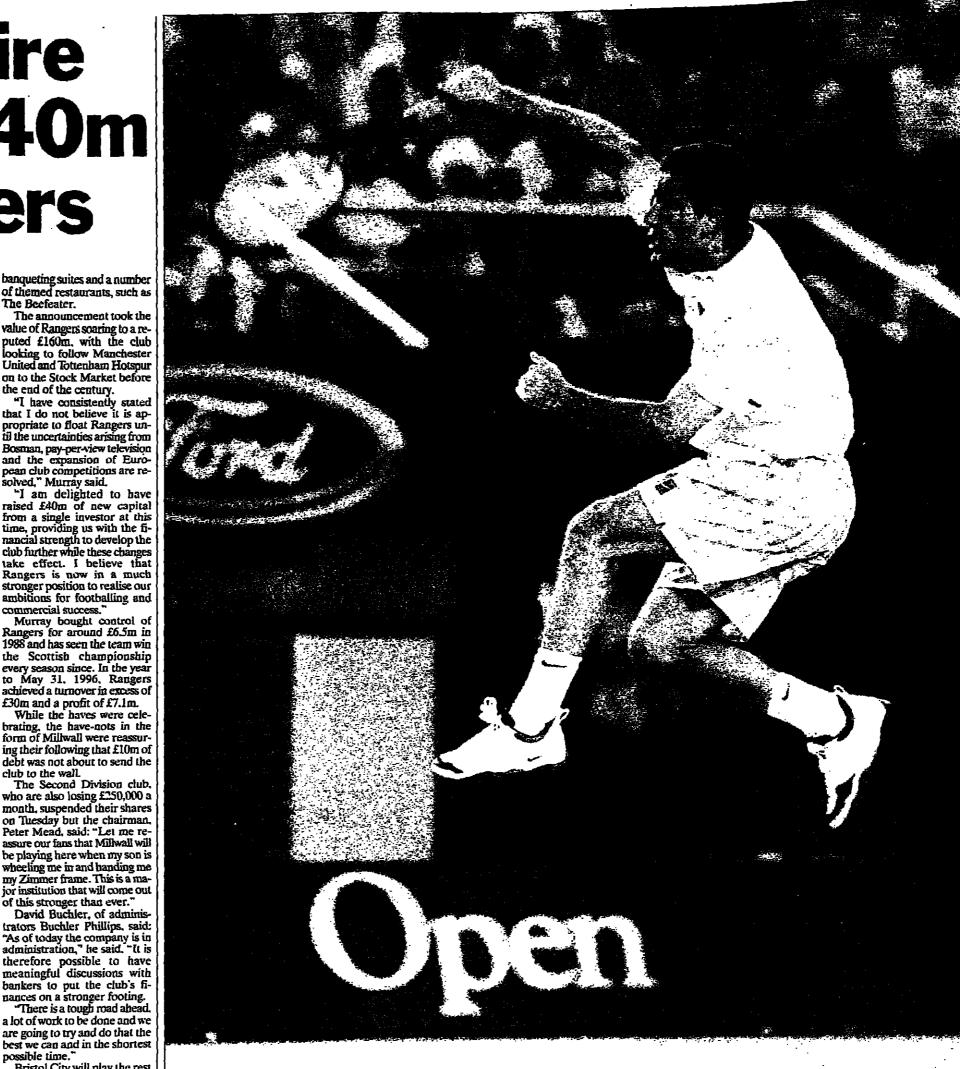
brating, the have-nots in the form of Millwall were reassuring their following that £10m of debt was not about to send the

club to the wall. The Second Division club. who are also losing £250,000 a month, suspended their shares on Tuesday but the chairman. Peter Mead, said: "Let me re-assure our fans that Millwall will be playing here when my son is wheeling me in and handing me my Zimmer frame. This is a major institution that will come out of this stronger than ever."

David Buchler, of administrators Buchler Phillips, said: "As of today the company is in administration," he said. "It is therefore possible to have meaningful discussions with bankers to put the club's finances on a stronger footing.

There is a tough road ahead. a lot of work to be done and we are going to try and do that the best we can and in the shortest possible time.

Bristol City will play the rest of the season under the threat of a two-point deduction after an FA disciplinary commission found the club guilty of a charge of failing to control spectators during the home derby against to Bristol Rovers last month.



Pete Sampras plays a 'slam-dunk' smash on his way to his quarter-final win in five sets over Albert Costa yesterday

body was laughing. Mentally, it

just helps you sometimes if you

do something else and not just

Past gymnastics experience helped her roll safely on the

grass after she went flying over

the horse's head. Then she

climbed back on and continued

her ride. "I was jumping and the horse didn't jump, and I jumped by myself," said Hingis, ex-

plaining her faulty timing, be-

fore adding that she will not do

any more riding during the

tournament, but only because

There was hearthreak for Bel-

gium's Dominique van Roost.

who handed the 14th-seeded

American, Mary Joe Fernandez,

her first Grand Slam semi-final

in four years when she retired

hurt in the second set because of

It was a sad end to Belgium's

best Grand Slam performance

following the defeat of the 16th

seed. Sabine Appelmans, on

Tuesday, Van Roost said: "A lot

of people think Belgium is

French, Sometimes you cannot

even see the country on the map.

I think now they know more

about Belgium from the tennis."

Both women's semi-finals

take place today, before the first

men's semi-final between the

world No 2, Michael Chang, and

Spain's Carlos Moya.

a pulled abdominal muscle.

there is not enough time.

tennis all the time."

Sampras survives to

face 'war' with Muster

pect. It's just a matter of who

Goran Ivanisevie's Grand Slam

hopes, shutting him out in a duel

of big bitters. The world No 4 from Croatia, who has yet to win

one of the game's four major ti-

tles, made a string of unforced errors as he lost 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. He

said: "I had a lot of chances I

didn't take. And if you don't take

those chances, you're gone."
With the roof of Centre

Court pulled over for the sec-

and day, this time due to tor-

rential rain rather than sun,

Muster, the fifth seed, appeared

to relish the indoor hardcourt

conditions. He played a far

smarter game to unnerve lvani-

sevic, serving smoothly and

wearing his opponent down

tina Hingis breezed into the

women's semi-tinals with a

straight-sets victory over Ro-

mania's Irina Spirlea. The

fourth seed made a tentative

start, dropping her second ser-

vice game but immediately

broke back and was never trou-

bled again, winning 7-5, 6-2 in

just 70 minutes. She has yet to

Hingis then revealed she had

drop a set in the tournament.

fallen off her horse on Tuesday.

The Swiss In-year-old Mar-

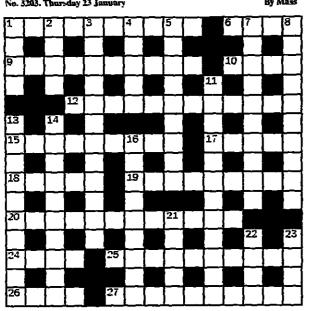
from the baseline.

Muster once more broke

does it better

Photograph: Tony Marshall/Empics

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- **ACROSS** They usually get a look-
- in (10) Long dial tone, initially
- Hitting back's having an effect, capturing Queen 26 Mould in shed (4)
- 10 Mass of fish causing stir about river (4) 12 Word ultimately applied
- to blue parties, maybe? 15 Medium wine ten mixed 2
- with half of beer (2.7) 17 Taken from Board School, we hear? (5) 18 Bitter disappointment
- 19 Cuts round old city with quiet ecclesiastical properties (9)

- 20 Most nuts can't resist this (6-6) 24 Pole's short enough to
- 25 Dad's locked out? Broke in (10)
- always entered (10)
- NWOD Scottish isle's recorded rain? (4) Push for Unionist in
- drink (4) A co-student I'd coached, left behind
- Dread losing top and slip (5) It could be applied to one full of beans (3-6)

(Published by New paper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Carany What), London E14 (DL) and printed at Mirror Ceitair Print, St.

- - Exercises including a jet's final loop-the-loop
  - Offer cape for warmth (10) 11 National idiosyncrasy?
- 27 Declare a floating asset. 13 Made endless politic manoeuvres, being thus
  - 14 Feels nausca? Seaman sways, losing head (10)
  - 16 One in SW Trades plying from NY to UK (9) 21 Result? Make certain right away (5)
  - 22 Region sherpa's. I assume, in part (4) 23 Tool given commercials
    - The fall, she said, "wasn't dantimes and I know what to ex- gerous at all. My morn was there peet, and he knows what to exon radio? (4)

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE

Thomas Muster.

reports from Melbaurne

Pete Sampras showed his cus-

omary composure in the Aus-

tralian Open here yesterday to

overcome two fightbacks by

Albert Costa, of Spain, and set

up a singles semi-final to sayour.

tomorrow against Austria's

The world No L winner of eight

Grand Slam titles, fought out a

tense five-set match with Costa

who stormed around the court.

chasing every ball and conjuring

un impossible shots to keep the

Each time Sampras took a set

lead, the 10th seed fought back

but he could not prevent the

American storming through at

the end to win 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, 3-6,

6-2 Sampras kept his cool in the

closing stages, his serve leading

the way. He sent down 23 aces

in the match and won almost all

He's fast, he's good. He's got

one of the best backhands five

ever seen." Sampras said of Cos-

ta. "On the run, I couldn't be-

lieve some of the shots he was

getting. Now I've got one day off

and then it will be Thomas,

which will be a war. We've

played each other a number of

his first-service points.

top seed on the back fine.

## Whizz-kid Sherwood has Ziv in a tizz

up for the defeat of his doubles partner James Trouman in the Australian Junior Open vesterday by deteating Israel's Kobi Ziv to reach the third round. Sherwood, Its from Sheffield. won 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 in the boys' sin-

Britain's David Sherwood made gles in Melbourne, where he and Trotman are in contention for the doubles' title.

Sherwood's success follows his recent rise to 29th place in the world under-18 rankings. Earlier Troiman, ranked 22 and seeded 13 in Melbourne, had

Results, Digest, page 25

been beaten in straight sets 6-4. 6-2 by the Croat Luka Katanjac. It was a far cry from his heroics earlier in the week when the 17-year-old from Ipswich overcame the heat to oust the Australian Nathan Healey in a three-and-a-half-hour match.

# Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetice, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it daily - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 29 ber water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Seiko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

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